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[Florence and Genoa] Genua Ligurum domina . . . [and] Florentia urbs est Insignis Hetruariae, olim Fluentia dicta . . . (Genoa & Florence)

Stock#: 67437
Map Maker: Braun & Hogenberg
Date: 1572 circa
Place: Cologne
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 18.5 x 13 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Beautiful Original Hand-Color view of Florence and Genoa

A fine example of this pair of birdseye views of "Genua" and "Firenze." The detail on these views are extensive, and the work is attractively produced. Additional text describes both cities and provides interesting historical insight. This work was published in Braun & Hogenberg's *Civitates Orbis Terrarum*, the most prolific compilation of city views published in the 16th Century.

In Florence, we see that the city on the banks of the Arno has spread out to fill the city walls, which were in their sixth iteration by then. The Belvedere fort is seen overlooking the city from the south, something not always included on maps of Florence. Many additional landmarks are instantly recognizable, from the Cathedral de Santa Maria to the Palazzo Vecchio. In the background are the Tuscan hills, dotted with small villages. Two wealthy travelers venture towards the city in the foreground. Despite the remarkable nature of most of this work, one small oversight of perspective is made: the peasants tilling their crops are significantly too large to fit in the houses they occupy.

The top image shows the port city of Genoa, at the time one of the most important cities of Italy. While less visited than Florence in the modern era, it is a city that is just as attractive. The Cathedral de San Lorenzo is visible in the center of the city. Ships sail through the harbor and into the Ligurian sea with oarsmen and flags raised.

These qualities make for a very attractive and informative map of two of the great Italian cities.



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Georg Braun's commentary on Genoa translates as follows:

Genoa, the capital of Liguria, is a powerful, proud and very ancient city. [...] It has an extremely well fortified and safe harbour and is also famous for its honest merchants. In all periods it has produced excellent merchants who deal by water and land in all things. [...] It currently recognizes the King of Spain as its supreme lord and is ruled by a duke who is appointed afresh every year.

His commentary on Florence translates as follows:

For just as Venice is called the rich, Milan the great, Genoa the proud, Bologna the fertile, Ravenna the ancient, Naples the noble and Rome the holy city, so Florence is called the beautiful. It has magnificent churches, of which Santa Maria del Fiore is particularly wonderful: it is built of marble and beside it stands a tower, also of marble, quite magnificently furnished with bells.

Detailed Condition:

Exceptional original hand-color in full.