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Civitates Orbis Terrarum.

Stock#: 67546
Map Maker: Braun & Hogenberg
Date: 1617
Place: Cologne
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 15.5 x 11.5 inches
Price: \$ 135,000.00



Description:

Braun and Hogenberg's six-volume Atlas of the Cities of the World.

A handsome example of the greatest atlas of city views ever made, Georg Braun & Frans Hogenberg's *Civitates Orbis Terrarum*, in six volumes.

The sixth volume of this work, with many hard-to-find views of Eastern European and other cities, is increasingly difficult to find. Most of the recently-sold sets have been of the more common five-volume configuration.

Civitates Orbis Terrarum: The Greatest City Book

Georg Braun and Frans Hogenberg began the process of creating a comprehensive atlas of the cities of the world in 1572. Their book, *Civitates Orbis Terrarum*, was originally intended as a companion to Abraham Ortelius's *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, the first true atlas.

The great atlas was edited by Georg Braun, with Franz Hogenberg engraving many of the views. When the project was finished, the series would contain over 546 views (sometimes with multiple views on a single plate).

Georg Braun (1541-1622) was born and died in Cologne. His primary vocation was as Catholic cleric; he spent thirty-seven years as canon and dean at the church St. Maria ad Gradus, in Cologne. As principal editor of the *Civitates*, he was assisted by Abraham Ortelius in the work.

Frans Hogenberg (1535-1590) was one of the greatest engravers of his generation. Not only did he engrave most of the plates for *Civitates*, but he was also responsible for many of those included in Ortelius's *Theatrum* as well. It is possible that Hogenberg was responsible for initiating the publication of



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the *Civitates*. Hogenberg also enriched the views with figures in the foreground representing local fashions.

Civitates Orbis Terrarum includes the work of over 100 artists and topographers, perhaps most notable among them was the superlative talent of Joris Hoefnagel (1542-1600). He provided original drawings of Spanish and Italian towns, as well as reworking and improving the town drawings of other artists. After Joris's death, his son Jakob continued the project.

Jacob van Deventer (1505-1575) is also represented in the form of plans of towns of the Netherlands. Stumpf's woodcuts from the *Schweizer Chronik* of 1548 were also used as sources, as were Sebastien Munster's German views from the 1550 and 1572 editions of his *Cosmographia*. Heinrich von Rantzau (1526-1599) was the source for the Danish city views.

The *Civitates* provides an incredible, comprehensive view of urban life in the late 16th century. Many of the views in these volumes are the earliest of their respective towns -- either absolutely, or they are predated only by impossible rarities, as in the case of London. As such, this singular and indispensable source for understanding the early modern world.

Detailed Condition:

Six parts in three volumes. Folio. 19th-century full stiff vellum; covers with three-line gilt rule; spines in seven compartments separated by raised bands, with red morocco lettering pieces in the second and fourth: "G. Brun Sen Braun - Civitates Orbis Terrarum." and "Liber Primus-Secundus" etc., the other compartments with repeat gilt roll-tools and another small gilt device. 348 (of 363) double-page plates of city views. 5 (of 6) engraved title pages. Letterpress indexes. Latin text. Lacking the following plates: Volume I, 7 and 34; Volume II, 46; Volume IV, 2, 27, and 39; Volume V, 15, 27, 58, 60, and 65; Volume VI, 21, 23, 23, and 24. Lacking the frontispiece and index for volume 6. Brixia Tyrlois, Escorial, and Prospectus amoeniss supplied in early hand-color, some loss to the latter of the three. Ornatissimi Triumphi Uti L Paullus attributed to Duperac is added to this copy extra-illustrating it, though there is a large ink stain to the right side of the image.