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Posonium [Bratislava]

Stock#: 67630
Map Maker: Braun / Hogenberg
Date: 1586 circa
Place: Cologne
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 19 x 12 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

An attractive antique view of Posonium [Bratislava] showing the city from the east, from across the Danube. The city is small, with a handful of churches, several neighborhoods, and a castle overlooking the city. The map is delicately colored.

Bratislava was the capital of Hungary at the time when this map was made and was one of the coronation cities of the Habsburg rulers, who had a seat at Bratislava castle. The Hungarian Diet also met here. Buda's capture by the Turks in 1536 had previously elevated Bratislava to prominence. The city's calm would subsequently be troubled in the early seventeenth century, with anti-Habsburg uprisings and further conflicts with the Ottoman Empire becoming recurring events.

The two names for the city on the map are Posonium, its Latin name, and Pressburg, its German name. The name Bratislava has a complicated history, originating with the name Brezalaspurc, likely derived from the military commander Braslav. The Hungarian name for the city in the 19th century, Pozsony, reflected the German name, and thus was opposed by Slavic nationalists. A scholar's misidentification of the etymology of Brezalaspurc led to the proposal of the new name Bratislav, which became the official name of the city in 1919 after joining Czechoslovakia. To confuse matters, further, there are many variants on each name as well as completely different names: during the Renaissance, a popular version was Istropolis, Greek for "City on the Danube."

Today, Bratislava is the capital and largest city in Slovakia.

The World Digital Library (operated by UNESCO and the LOC) places this as the earliest map of Bratislava.



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Detailed Condition:

Show-through of text on verso.