



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

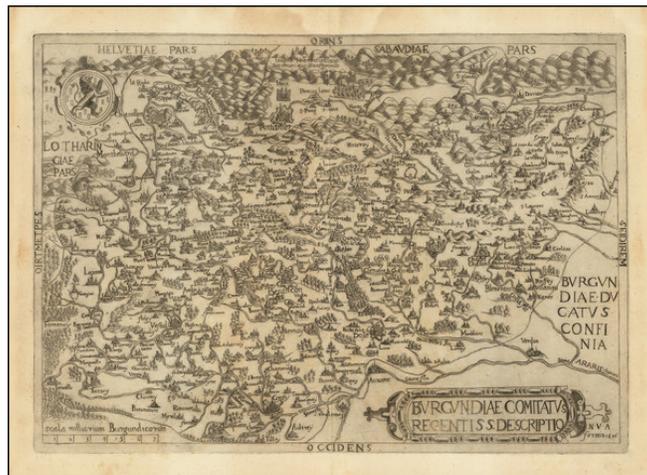
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[Franche-Comte] Burgundiae Comitatus Recentiss. Descriptio . . . 1596

Stock#: 75250
Map Maker: De Lannoy / Van Aelst
Date: 1596
Place: Rome
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 20 x 14.2 inches
Price: \$ 950.00



Description:

Rare, Early Map of Eastern France Based on a Map Suppressed By The Duke of Alba

Scarce sixteenth-century map of Franche-Comté, bearing the credit "*N.V.A. formis 1596*".

The map is oriented with east at the top, and extends to the Saone River in the south and the Alps in the east. It is centered on the region east of Besançon, including Poligny, Quingey and St. Anne.

The map is thickly detailed with rolling hills, tiny villages, walled cities, and winding rivers. The coat of arms of Burgundy, with its rearing lion with a lolling tongue, is in the upper left corner. The scale is in Burgundian miles.

This map is based upon an earlier 1563 map by Ferdinand de Lannoy, a Flemish noble who was the Governor of Holland for a brief period. Lannoy commissioned the Antwerp publisher Hieronymus Cock to produce a printed version of the map and it is known that in 1568 the copperplate was finished. For reasons of military security, however, the Duke of Alba ordered the map not to be released. He had the plate destroyed. Therefore, no printed copy of this base map is known to date. This earlier map is also confirmed by Abraham Ortelius' description in his *Auctorum Catalog* of 1570.

The present map, dated to 1596, was made in Rome. N.V.A. would be Nicholas Van Aelst, a Flemish printmaker and publisher operating in Rome at the turn of the seventeenth century, who is also likely to have had access to the original Lannoy map through his sources in the low countries.

Franche-Comté



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This important region in what is now eastern France became part of the Frankish kingdom in the early sixth century. It then came under the control of Burgundy in 561 before being united with the Frankish kingdom under Clotaire II of Burgundy in 613. It remained a territory of the County of Burgundy from 888 and came under the umbrella of the Holy Roman Empire in 1034. The name Franche-Comté first appeared in official documents in 1366.

In 1477, the territory was separated from the Duchy of Burgundy because the latter had been incorporated into the larger kingdom of France. When King Louis XI died in 1492 the entire Duchy was ceded to Philip of Austria. Philip's son, the powerful Charles V, inherited the Spanish throne in 1516, placing Franche-Comté and Burgundy in Spanish hands. This is why the Duke of Alba, a Spanish noble, was able to suppress the publication of the source map by Lannoy.

The area was of immense interest to the French, who saw it as a natural part of their kingdom. It was only won back to France, however, in 1668, but was then returned to Spain in the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle. France again seized the territory in 1674 and they gained permanent control over Franche-Comté in the Treaty of Nijmegen in 1678.

Rarity

This is only the fifth known example of the map, according to Bifulco-Ronca.

Detailed Condition: