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**(Limousin) Totius Lemovici et confinium provinciarum quantum ad dioecesin  
Lemouicensen spectant**

**Stock#:** 75258  
**Map Maker:** Bouguereau / Tavernier / Fayen  
**Date:** 1594  
**Place:** Tours  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 19 x 14 inches  
**Price:** \$ 950.00



**Description:**

***Rare First Map of Limousin***

Fine early map of the area around Limoges in southwestern France. This work originally appeared in the very rare text by Maurice Bouguereau, *Le Theatre Francoys*, known as the first national atlas of France.

Detail on the map is extensive, however, de Dainville notes that this map omits many monasteries and religious establishments, calling it "curiously secular and monarchical," in contrast with the other two original maps which appear in the *Theatre*. This can possibly be ascribed as an attempt by Fayen to curry political favor, as the King Henry IV was currently at war with the Catholic League when this map was published and had been exiled to Tours.

The map includes an inset of the city of Limoges, showing the city within its old walls and listing places of interest. Also featured on this map is a poem by the late 16th-century poet Joachim Blanchon, a coat of arms, and an extensive description of the region. This map extends from Argenton in the north to the Dordogne region in the south, as far as Perigueux.

Unlike most other maps in *Le Theatre Francoys*, this map is not copied from any previous work, and, instead, is based on original surveys conducted by Jean Fayen. This is the earliest map of the region.

**Le Theatre Francoys**

This very rare volume is understood to be the first national atlas of France. Published in Tours during the



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French king's exile from Paris, this work reunites maps of northern and central France.

Many of the maps in the volume are copied from earlier Ortelius and Mercator sources, although some, particularly in the region around Tours, are original maps. These maps would be reused by later authors, including Hondius, Blaeu, and Jansson. All the maps in the text are engraved by Tavernier.

The volume suffered from a lack of spatial completeness, with much of the south of France lacking any coverage. While Bouguereau put a plea for more maps in his introduction, subsequent, more complete editions of this work would not be published until well into the 17th century. The first complete edition would appear in 1642 under the name *Theatre Geographique due Royaume de France*.

**Detailed Condition:**

Minor staining in top margin.