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Galliae Veteris Typus

Stock#: 76034
Map Maker: Ortelius
Date: 1624
Place: Antwerp
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 19.5 x 15.5 inches
Price: \$ 575.00



Description:

Detailed Ortelius Map of France in Roman Times, Based on Classical Sources

Vivid map of Ancient France from Ortelius' *Parergon*, the first historical atlas. The map is based upon information from classical sources such as Strabo, Virgil, Ovid and Caesar.

It differs from Ortelius' similar *Galliae Vetus* map ([here](#)) in that it is based upon ancient geographical sources, rather than ancient military sources, making it substantially more detailed.

Oriented northward, this map displays Ancient France, from its border with Spain (*Hispaniae pars*) in the southwest to Great Britain (*Britanniae pars*) in the northwest. The map also stretches east to Germany (*Germaniae Magnae pars*) and Italy (*Italiae Gallicae pars*). The country is divided into four main provinces, which make up this area of the Roman Empire: *Belgica*, *Celtica Lugdunensis*, *Narbonensis*, and *Aquitania*.

This map is characterized by excellent attention to detail. The shape of the coastline is fairly accurate, which is unsurprising given that Europe was well mapped by Ortelius' time. Rivers are carefully rendered, and throughout the map mountain ranges and forests give the land texture. In particular, the Pyrenees Mountains (*Pyrenaei montes*) dividing Spain and France and the Alps (*Alpes*) near Italy are notable. These details help to orient the viewer and give a sense of the physical geography of the land.

Cities are represented with miniature views, which is typical of Ortelius maps. Some may be recognizable



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to the casual viewer as well-known cities today, such as London (*Londinum*) in Great Britain, *Geneva* on Lake Geneva (*Lemanus lacus*), and Paris (*Parisii*) in north-central France.

Some water bodies such as the Mediterranean Sea (*Mediterranei Maris pars*) and the English Channel (*Oceanus Britannicus*) can be seen around the edges of the map. Filling them in with stippling gives the water a bit of texture without distracting from the many labels and locations on the map. A pair of decorative ships also sail the more northern waters.

Two beautiful cartouches adorn the map. In the southwest corner, the title cartouche is particularly ornate. It indicates the subject of the map, Ancient France (*Galliae Veteris*). A simpler cartouche in the northeast corner dedicates the map to two renowned noblemen, Lord Edward van der Delft and Carolus from Mechelen. These strapwork cartouches employ texture and shading which give them a vivid appearance. The title cartouche also includes figural elements, flora, and fauna.

Much of this map is based upon the geographical writings of classical scholars. Ortelius notes Strabo's thoughts on the Venetian Islands (*Veneticae insulae*), where the Amnitae tribe women are excellent dancers. Pliny and Ptolemy are also cited as sources for a peninsula (*Cervix Peninsulae*) in the northwest.

Ortelius's Parergon

Although best known for his world atlas, the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, the *Parergon* was a project of personal interest and the work that Ortelius himself considered his greatest achievement. He had a deep curiosity about classical antiquity which spurred him to create the *Parergon* maps, and the amount of time and detail he put into each map is clearly evident. Ortelius hand drew each map of the *Parergon*, which required considerable skill and knowledge of the area's history and geography. It is considered the first historical atlas.

Parergon means supplementary and, accordingly, the first three *Parergon* maps were published as supplements to the 1579 edition of the *Theatrum*, which had already been in print for nine years. Over time, successive editions of the *Theatrum* were supplemented with more *Parergon* maps, and there are 55 known plates overall. The *Parergon* was also published as its own atlas separate from the *Theatrum* on two occasions, once in 1595 and again in 1624.

The *Parergon* was highly successful both as a supplement to the *Theatrum* and on its own. It was variously translated into French, German, Italian, and English and regularly printed until 1612. Further editions were more sporadic but still popular, such as the 1624 edition which was published twenty-six years after Ortelius' death in 1598.



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This intricate map is an exceptionally detailed depiction of ancient France. It would be a valuable addition to a collection of French or European maps, Ortelius maps, or maps of classical antiquity.

Detailed Condition: