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[Jerusalem]. La Saincte cite de Ierusalem iadezi metropolitaine du royaume des Iuifz, & maintenant colonie du Turc

Stock#: 77315
Map Maker: Munster

Date: 1550 circa
Place: Basel
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 15 x 10 inches Including Text

Price: Not Available



Description:

Fine Sixteenth-Century View of Jerusalem From Münster's Highly Influential Work

An early and finely-engraved view, titled 'The Holy City', depicting Jerusalem surrounded by its ancient walls.

Religious sites and important landmarks are clearly labeled and rendered in aesthetically-pleasing detail. Sebastian Münster was one of the most important mapmakers of his time and this striking view is a testament to his craft.

The view is centered on the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, shown rising high above all other structures. Jerusalem's Golden Gates, newly restored by Ottoman rulers at the time of this work, are labeled at front. The Western Wall, the most holy site in Judaism, runs perpendicular to the Golden Gates at the city's center.

The labeling choices and accompanying description of the featured sites are catered to Münster's Christian audience, with the Dome of the Rock clearly depicted as a mosque but labeled as King Solomon's Temple. Mount Zion can be seen above the city at top left, with King David's tomb marked at its peak and the Church of Saint Peter in Gallicantu shown farther down the eastern slope (referred to here by its biblical name, the House of the Priest Caiaphas). Just outside of the city walls, the Church of Saint Anne, one of the longest surviving Crusader churches, is tucked into the hills at the base of Mount Zion.

Inside the city walls, Herod's Palace is labeled at right. Pisaner Schloss (The Castle of the Pisans), today

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referred to as the Tower of David or the Citadel, is just to the left of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Hakeldama (also known as the Field of Blood, where Judas was said to have hung himself) is at the far left. The Garden of Gethsemane and the Gihon Spring, the ancient city's main water source, can be seen in the foreground.

This view's accompanying German-language description would have provided context for Münster's European viewers, eloquently describing each of the view's featured sites by evoking biblical stories and the long, embattled religious history of Jerusalem (also referred to here as the Land of Zion). Muslim Ottoman control of Jerusalem is briefly discussed in the description, and contemporary Ottoman influence is clearly illustrated by buildings topped with the Empire's distinctive crescent roof finials.

Münster's *Geographia* (first published in 1540) and *Cosmographia* (first published in 1544), are considered groundbreaking works in the history of cartography. This view was part of the *Cosmographia*, the earliest German description of the world and a major work in the revival of geographic thought in sixteenth-century Europe. Altogether, about forty editions of the *Cosmographia* appeared between 1544 and 1628, printed in German, Latin, French, Italian, and Czech. The *Cosmographia* consists of a set of six books; as noted above the title, this view is included in the fifth book.

This engaging view of Jerusalem was created by the dominant cartographer of the mid-sixteenth century, Sebastian Münster, and included in his seminal work, the *Cosmographia*. It is complete with fine illustrative detail and would be a worthy addition to any collection of Jerusalem, Münster, or sixteenth-century print.

Detailed Condition:
Left and right margins extended for framing.