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Mirabilium Sulphureorum Motium Apud Puteolos (campos Flegreos Plin Vulcani forum Strabo Vulgo nunc Solsataria vocant Neapolitani) genuina accuratissimaq ad Vium depcita representatio

Stock#: 77610
Map Maker: Braun & Hogenberg
Date: 1593
Place: Cologne
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 16 x 12 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine early view of the Phlegraean Fields, otherwise known as the Campi Flegrei in Italy, published by Braun & Hogenberg.

The Phlegraean Fields is a large volcanic area situated to the west of Naples, Italy. Lying mostly underwater, the area of the caldera consists of 24 craters and volcanic edifices. Hydrothermal activity can be observed at Lucrino, Agnano and the town of Pozzuoli. There are also effusive gaseous manifestations in the Solfatara crater, the mythological home of the Roman god of fire, Vulcan.

The view depicts the region of the Neapolitan Coastline where deadly sulphurous vapors rise from the ground. The allegorical figures with a donkey's head and a Medusa's head who are striking an anvil with smiths' hammers, and the cartouche texts framed by horseshoes, are clear references to the forge of the god Vulcan. In the middle we see the artist (Georg Hoefnagel) and the scholar (Abraham Ortelius) discussing in detail what they see (C: "The water here is always black, muddy and so hot that if an egg is put in it, it will come out cooked; the water bubbles like the sea and often surges up to a height of 24 handbreadths"). The Greeks founded their oldest colony on the Italian mainland close to the Phlegraean Fields and since antiquity travelers have been fascinated by these volcanic hills with their hot springs and craters, so vividly portrayed by Georg Hoefnagel. (Taschen)



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Detailed Condition: