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Maison et Chambre Angelique de la Vierge Marie de Mont-serrat Situee en Catalogne a Sept lieues et au Nord de Barcelone . . . 1705

Stock#: 79560
Map Maker: de Fer
Date: 1705 circa
Place: Paris
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 13 x 9 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fantastic Depiction of a Symbol of the Catalonian Independence Movement

Striking view of Montserrat and the Abby of St. Mary, near Barcelona. This Catalonian abbey is located high in the Pyrenean foothills, nestled below striking hills composed of large grey boulders.

This copperplate engraving magnificently shows the many religious sites up and down Montserrat. Various religious orders are shown and named, and pilgrims can be seen throughout the view.

Considered one of the most important religious sites of Europe at the time, the consecrated buildings are built around a statue of the Virgin Mary that was found in the ninth century. This began a new cult, and the site was managed by several different orders over its long history. In addition to the Abbey, fraternal orders and a basilica are located on the Montserrat.

Later in the abbey's history, the site became a refuge for opponents of the Franco regime. As such, it has now become a symbol of Catalonian independence.

The verso includes an extensive description of Montserrat and its abbey. It reads as follows:

Mont-Serrat is a mountain, or rather a rock, situated in the kingdom of Spain in the Province of Catalonia to the northeast of Barcelona, and seven leagues and a half from this city, which, in reality, are closer to a dozen [leagues]. It is a devotional site and one of the greatest in Europe. From the summit, you can see very well Barcelona and even the islands of Majorca and Minorca.



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The convent of Montserrat is on top of this mountain, between high rocks, which are very close to one another. . .

The text goes on to describe the order of St. Benedict and the population and governance of the convent. The text also tells of a golden crown located at this convent, which appears to be a mythical reference without any modern-day sources. If this crown had existed, it may have been destroyed during the sacking of the convent by Napoleon's troops.

Detailed Condition:

Minor toning around edges.