



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Neuester und exacter Plan und Prospect von der Stadt Vestung Bay und Fortification Von Gibraltar...1733 [with view of Cadiz]

Stock#: 80238
Map Maker: Homann Heirs
Date: 1733
Place: Nuremberg
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 22.5 x 18.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Neuester und exacter Plan und Prospect von der Stadt, Vestung, Bay und Fortification von Gibraltar, published by the Homann Heirs in Nürnberg in 1733, offers an intricate portrayal of Gibraltar, one of Europe's most strategically vital fortresses. The sheet encompasses four distinct views: the neck fortifications of Gibraltar, the entire peninsula, and prospects of both Cadiz and Gibraltar. Furthermore, the diagram illustrates the fortifications' enhancements made by the English after the 1727 siege, showcasing Gibraltar's evolution as a near impregnable fortress.

Gibraltar, situated at the intersection of Europe and Africa, has historically been the focal point of numerous power struggles, owing to its unique position as a gateway between the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. This item casts light upon Gibraltar's geostrategic importance, emphasizing its role as the "key to Spain and the Mediterranean Sea." Historically, it was a formidable Spanish fortress before its capture by the English in the early 18th century.

The siege of 1704 stands out as a pivotal episode in Gibraltar's history. Led by English Admiral George Rooke, the English forces seized Gibraltar from the Spaniards in merely four days in July 1704. This takeover was, however, not without contestation. Just months later, from October of the same year until April 1703, the fortress was besieged by the combined forces of the French and the Spanish. Despite the prolonged assault and the significant loss of over 10,000 men due to combat and disease, Gibraltar remained resilient, a testament to its strategic defenses and the tenacity of its defenders.



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Von Gibraltar...1733 [with view of Cadiz]**

The intricate mapping and annotations in the item reveal the geographical, architectural, and military nuances of Gibraltar and its environs. Not merely a tool for geographic understanding, it serves as an embodiment of the changing political and military landscape of Europe during the 18th century. This detailed record, drawn from an English original, captures Gibraltar's fortified developments, including those made by the English post-1727, as well as the Spanish counter-fortifications on the landward side, a narrative of continuous advancements in military engineering and architecture.

The presence of additional prospects of Cadiz and Gibraltar only enriches the narrative, providing a broader geographical and strategic context to the significance of Gibraltar. This item, while rooted in its time, speaks volumes about the enduring importance of Gibraltar in European history, a stronghold that has, time and again, been at the nexus of continental power dynamics.

Detailed Condition: