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Helvetia cum finitimis regionibus confoederatis [Switzerland with the neighboring confederate regions.]

Stock#: 93702
Map Maker: Blaeu
Date: 1634
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 20 x 15.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

This circa 1634 map by Willem Janszoon Blaeu offers a finely detailed depiction of Switzerland, with Gerard Mercator credited for its design. The map is a notable example of Blaeu's work, featuring a rich array of geographical details from Basel at the top to the Italian Alps, including Lakes Maggiore and Como, at the bottom, and Lake Geneva on the left.

The map is a product of a period of intense cartographic activity in the 17th century, with Amsterdam emerging as the epicenter of map production. Blaeu, a prominent figure in this golden age of Dutch cartography, was known for his meticulousness and precision. This is evident in the map's extensive array of place names, including St. Moritz and St. Gall, among others.

In creating this map, Blaeu drew inspiration from Gerard Mercator, a pioneer of modern cartography. This is acknowledged in the inscription "Describebat Gerard' Mercator" on the map, reinforcing the connection between these two influential cartographers. It's a testament to the legacy of Mercator and the innovative spirit of Blaeu that they could create such a comprehensive and detailed portrayal of Switzerland during this period.

An engaging detail of this map is the depiction of two "typical" Swiss citizens at the lower right, adjacent to the mileage scale. This human element not only adds an aesthetic appeal but also provides a glimpse into the perception of Swiss culture during the 17th century. Overall, this map stands as a remarkable artifact of early modern cartography, embodying the precision of Blaeu's work and his respect for



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Mercator's contributions.

Detailed Condition: