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(Ypres) Hypra Flandriarum Civitas Munitissima

Stock#: 96140
Map Maker: Braun & Hogenberg
Date: 1612
Place: Cologne
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 12.75 x 13.5 inches
Price: \$ 295.00



Description:

Hypra Flandriarum Civitas Munitissima, produced in Cologne by Braun & Hogenberg around 1575, presents Ypres, a foremost fortified city in Flanders, renowned for its monumental town hall and significant role in the European cloth trade. Situated in the heart of Flanders, Ypres was a linchpin in the textile industry, outpacing even its contemporaneous giants such as Ghent and Bruges in the 13th century.

The late Medieval period witnessed Ypres achieving pinnacle status in Europe's cloth production hierarchy. Its meteoric rise in the 13th century can be attributed to its sizable population of 200,000 inhabitants and a staggering 4,000 weaving looms. The expansive reach of Ypres' textile trade is evident in the discovery of its cloth as far afield as central Russia, North Africa, and Syria. This geographical span serves as a testament to the city's industrial prowess and the quality of its products.

Braun's commentary further adds depth to the understanding of the city's architectural and cultural nuances. The town hall, a magnificent edifice situated at the marketplace, stands out not just for its grandeur but also for a peculiar observation: the conspicuous absence of spiders and their webs. This absence, attributed to the salt water-treatment of the building's wooden beams sourced from Norway and Sweden, underscores the intricate architectural methodologies and cultural beliefs of the time.

Furthermore, the biannual fairs held in Ypres exemplify the city's significance as a hub for trade, especially in cloth and wool. These fairs, acting as major commercial events, reiterate the dynamic trade relations the Flemings maintained, emphasizing the vibrancy of the city's economy. However, as history progressed, Ypres faced an economic downturn in the 15th century, a consequence of the rise of English



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wool in the global market.

In sum, *Hypra Flandriarum Civitas Munitissima* is not merely a representation of a city's topographical layout. It encapsulates the essence of Ypres in its prime, emphasizing its monumental architectural achievements, the quirks of its local folklore, and its unparalleled stature in the realm of textile production and trade.

Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color. Early ink manuscript in the top margin.