



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Toledo & Valladolid By Georg Braun & Frans Hogenberg. 1572-1624 - Toletum

350 EUR



Period : 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Paper

Length : 47 cm

Height : 33 cm

Description

TOLEDO

TRANSLATION OF CARTOUCHE TEXT:

Toledo is the capital of the Kingdom of Spain, situated on the River Tajo: its archbisschop is also the head of the clergy of all Spain. This city was surrounded by a solid wall erected by King Bamba and embellished with numerous magnificent buildings. ... When Roderick, the last king of the Visigoths, ruled in Toledo, there !was a palace here that was sealed with many iron locks. Against the wishes of the Spaniards, Roderick had these locks broken open, since he hoped to find a vast treasure hidden inside. Once he had entered the castle, however, he found inside just a single chest with a painted cloth, on which was written in Latin that, when the palace

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was opened and the bolts and locks were broken, the persons depicted on it would conquer Spain; but the painting showed Moors and Arabs in battle dress. When he saw this, he had the castle locked up again. Shortly afterwards, in the year AD 711, as recounted by Francisco Tarapha and others, Arabs and Saracens attacked the city for eight days without interruption, killed king Roderick and wiped out the Spanish nobility, in other words, gained control of the entire land by force.

COMMENTARY BY BRAUN: "Although Toledo lies in the middle of Spain, its mountainous and barren setting ensures that the city is very difficult to access. The noble River Tajo, which is famous for its gold sand, flows around the large part of the city and thus protects it from its enemies. The northern part of the city is protected by strong walls and 150 towers. ... In this city there are many knights and nobles, but also a very large number of ordinary citizens. A respected clergy lives here, the liberal arts are practised and artisans and merchants also have a respectable trade, in particular the silk and wool merchants; around 10,000 people in the city earn their living in these two industries."

In this view, presented from the opposite bank of the Tajo from the cliffs beside Virgen del Valle, Toledo's striking location on the southern Meseta Plateau, roughly 100 m above the Tajo River, is emphasized. The city and surrounding countryside are rendered with great precision and almost every house seems to be individually drawn. The churches and the Alcázar rise high above the sea of houses. A wealthy and powerful city up to 1560, Toledo for a while maintained its position as the spiritual capital and cultural centre of Spain, even after Philip II moved his court to Madrid in 1561, the city numbering 62,000 inhabitants in 1571. Although the civic authorities endeavoured to increase the city's appeal through renovations and large-scale expansion, their

efforts failed to persuade Philip II to return, with the result that Toledo went into a decline after 1600.

VALLADOLID

CARTOUCHE: Valladolid is the most common name for Vallisoletum, which is also called Pincia. It is the noblest city in all Spain, seat of His Most Serene Highness and of the most noble and famous men, for this reason also embellished in a captivatingly beautiful manner with magnificent architecture, both with regard to the palaces of the nobility and the churches - in comparison to other Spanish cities truly a jewel! With its numerous artisans and merchants, fertile local soil and the Pisuerga flowing past, the city enjoys appreciable advantages.

COMMENTARY BY BRAUN: "Pincia, which is generally called Valladolid, however, is the largest and most magnificent of all the cities in Spain. ... I know not what other cities I should compare with, for it has an outstanding location on the lovely banks of the River Pisuerga, it is richly endowed with artists and craftsmen, but also with buildings, churches, monasteries and two religious foundations. ... Picia is also particularly well known for the reason that His Most Serene Highness, the King of Spain, Philip, was born there. For it is fitting that such an almighty king should be born not just anywhere, but in the most important and beautiful city."

An elevated viewpoint has been deliberately chosen in order to provide a better overview of the city. The staffage figures in peasant dress emphasize the rural character of the surrounding countryside. Rising prominently in the centre of the city is the church of San Pablo. The text mentions King Philip II of Spain, who was born in Valladolid on 21 May 1529. In the 15th and 16th centuries Valladolid was the residence of the

Kings of Castile and the centre of the Spanish Renaissance. Philip II centralized the kingdom and in 1561 moved his court to Madrid. Valladolid is the capital of the eponymous province and of the Castilla y León region and has some 320,000 inhabitants.