



A prospect of Smyrna in the 17th century by a professional artist

BRUYN, Cornelis de.  
 Smyrna.

Paris: Guillaume Cavelier, 1714. Two sheets conjoined, total 300 x 980mm.

£850

A fine panoramic view of Smyrna (now Izmir), with European ships emphasising the importance of the port for trade between the Ottoman Empire and Europe. In 1675 the Dutch painter Cornelis de Bruyn (1652-1727) set out from Livorno on a journey through the Levant, visiting Jerusalem, Constantinople, Egypt, Greece and Cyprus. returning in 1684. His account was first published in Dutch in 1698 as 'Reizen van Cornelis de Bruyn... door Klein Asia...van Aegypten, Syrien en Palestina'. This example comes from a French edition, 'Voyage au Levant, c'est-à-dire, dans les principaux endroits de l'Asie Mineure, dans les isles de Chio, Rhodes, & Chypre &c'. On a second tour de Bruyn visited Russia, from where he travelled south to Persia then east to Java.

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