



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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World & Continents -- Nova Totius Terrarum Orbis [and] Americae nova Tabula [and] Africa nova descriptio [and] Asia noviter delineata.[and] Europa recens descripta

Stock#: 14936
Map Maker: Blaeu
Date: 1634
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 22 x 16.5 inches each
Price: SOLD



Description:

Striking example of Blaeu's maps of the World and continents.

Blaeu's set of the World & Continents are perhaps the most decorative and cartographically accurate of all sets published in the 17th Century. Blaeu's work set the standard for other map makers during the Golden Age of Cartography, characterized by fine engraving, high quality paper and fine geographical detail.

Blaeu's map of the world is one of the earliest maps to utilize the Mercator Projection, which allowed mariners in the open sea to make practical use of maps. Although the technique was not perfected for another 2 centuries, Blaeu's adoption of the standard was among the most significant milestones for the general acceptance of Mercator's work and one of the earliest broad disseminations. The map of the World is embellished with allegorical representations of the 4 seasons and 4 elements in the side panels, the 7 wonders of the Ancient World at the bottom and representations of the Classical Planets, moon and sun at the top. The World map's cartography features a fascinating depiction of the Northwest Coast of California, although it is noteworthy that Blaeu was one of the few commercial mapmakers to reject the myth of California as an island.



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The details in North America reflect the activity of the English and French in their colonies in Virginia, Canada and Florida, as well as the Dutch interest in a passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans to further Dutch trading interests, hence the inclusion of recent discoveries by Hudson, Davis and others. The map also includes a grande Terra Australis Incognita, which even retains some of the mythical geography of Marco Polo. The maps of the 4 continents are embellished with depictions of the major cities of each continent atop the maps and a depiction of the costumes of various indigenous people along the side panels. A generally fine example of this highly decorative set. Minor repaired fold split in the World map just entering the printed image, else nice wide margined examples of each of the maps, with German text on the verso.

Detailed Condition: