



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

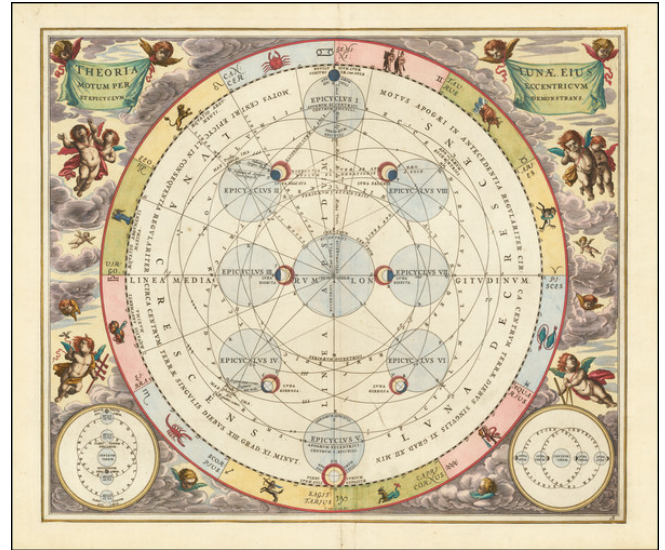
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Theoria Lunae, Eius Motum Per Eccentricum Et Epicyclum Demonstrans

Stock#: 65865op
Map Maker: Cellarius
Date: 1660 (1661)
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 20 x 17 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Finely engraved celestial map showing Claudius Ptolemy's model of the lunar cycles. This fantastic celestial chart was originally engraved for Andreas Cellarius's *Harmonia Macrocosmica*, which first appeared in 1660.

The chart shows Ptolemy's explanation as to why the position of the moon varies over the course of a lunar cycle. This plate introduces the concept of "epicycles," or secondary orbits undertaken by the moon around a fictional point, that explain why the position of the moon varied with respect to the sun. This theory, while an improvement on previous classical theories, was still unable to predict the exact location of the moon at various points during its orbit, and a superior explanation would have to wait until the development of early modern astronomical theory.

The central diagram is bordered by the signs of the Zodiac and surrounded by superb engravings of clouds filled with putti, the title banners, and two smaller diagrams. Cherubs hold astronomical tools including cross staffs and dividers. The two inset charts in the lower left and right show how the idea of an ecliptical orbit can solve the same problem.

Cellarius's charts are the most sought-after of celestial charts, blending the striking imagery of the golden age of Dutch cartography with contemporary scientific knowledge.

Detailed Condition: