



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## Novissima Totius Terrarum Orbis Tabula, Auctore Joh: Seller Hydrographo Regio

**Stock#:** 96354  
**Map Maker:** Seller  
**Date:** 1675 circa  
**Place:** London  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 18 x 22.5 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

#### ***One of the Great Rarities of 17th-Century English World Maps.***

A handsome original hand-color example of John Seller's map double hemisphere map of the world, which appeared in his *Atlas Maritimus* beginning about 1675.

Cartographically, the map follows the Dutch modes of the period, with some toponymy changed out for English preferences. The map features California as an Island, emerging coastlines of Australia and New Zealand, and allusions to discoveries and English settlements in North America ("New Pleymouth", "Maryland", "Virginia", etc.).

#### **The Decorative Embellishments**

It is worth examining the decorative elements of this map, which break from previous English traditions and are well engraved and compositionally successful.

The scenes directly above and below the hemispheres must have been influenced by Nicholas Van Geelkercken's unusual 1617 world map, titled [\*Orbis Terrarum Descriptio Duobis Planis Hemisphaeriis Comprehe\[n\]sa\*](#). Here, Seller has reinterpreted Van Geelkercken's allegories of the seasons, with the lower left featuring Bacchus and winemaking, albeit with a somewhat more refined engraver's hand.

Representations of celestial bodies dominate the borders, with two depictions of the moon, one "naturalis"



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and one "artificial," as first published by Hevelius in 1647. Seller also includes popular comparative celestial mechanics, so much the rave in the 1660s and '70s, with an earth-centered planetary system following Ptolemy, a sun-centered system after Copernicus, and the hybrid system according to Tycho Brahe.

The four elements are embodied in animals: a dragon for fire, rabbits for earth, an eagle for air, and a sea monster for water. Representations of the twelve Zodiac signs are also included.

Overall, the effect is striking and merited inclusion at the beginning of Shirley's *The Mapping of the World* as one of the book's few color illustrations.

**States**

There are four states (Shirley alludes to 3); however, the first two of these are essentially pre-publication proofs of varying levels of completeness.

This is the first completed state.

In 1702, the map was altered to remove Seller's name, resulting in the final state.

**Detailed Condition:**

Original hand-color in outline. Paper evenly toned. A few expert, invisible repairs at the edges, not touching the image.