



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman  
Antique Maps Inc.**

7407 La Jolla Boulevard  
La Jolla, CA 92037

[www.raremaps.com](http://www.raremaps.com)

(858) 551-8500  
[blr@raremaps.com](mailto:blr@raremaps.com)

**[Title Page] Novus Atlas Sinensis a Martino Martinio . . . (Heightened in Gold)**

**Stock#:** 37076  
**Map Maker:** Blaeu  
**Date:** 1655 circa  
**Place:** Amsterdam  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 10.5 x 16.5 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



**Description:**

Striking old color example of the title page for Blaeu's atlas of China, first published in 1655.

This fine allegorical scene shows the gateway to China being thrown open, with the Latin phrase "*clausa recludo*" ("I open the closed places"), with a group of angels with various navigational devices looking over a map of China and a globe oriented toward Southeast Asia and a partially known Australia.

At the top, the allegorical scene shows the Jesuit symbol IHS (Society of Jesus) shining light on the world, with an allegorical symbol for Christianity reflecting the light in order to light a torch in the hands of a winged angel sitting atop the wall of the gate to the Middle Kingdom, with a procession of angels bearing



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symbols of Christian faith above.

This powerful image pays tribute to the efforts of the Jesuits to bring Christianity to China and the resultant geographical and other information which they compiled during they missionaries travels and embasssies. Martino's reporting on China revolutionized the mapping of the region and was the first significant leap forward in the geographical knowledge of China in over nearly 50 years, and would shape the depiction of the Middle Kingdom for the rest of the 17th Century.

**Detailed Condition:**

Old Color (Heightened in Gold)