



## Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

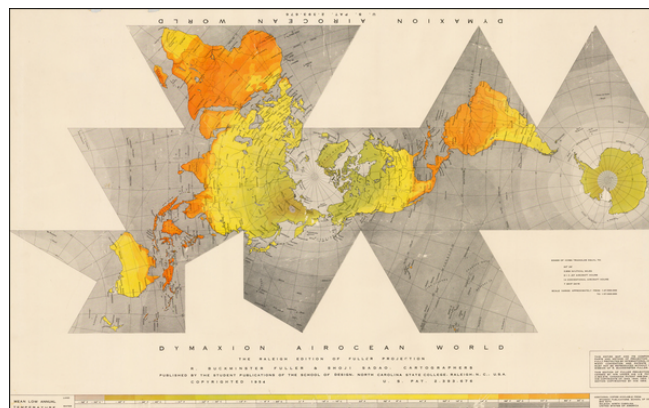
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### Dymaxion Airocean World The Raleigh Edition of the Fuller Projection

**Stock#:** 40688  
**Map Maker:** Fuller & Sadao  
**Date:** 1954 circa  
**Place:** Raleigh, NC  
**Color:**  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 15 x 32 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



#### Description:

Nice example of the Raleigh edition of Buckminster Fuller's Dymaxion map of the world.

The Dymaxion map or Fuller map is a projection of a world map onto the surface of an icosahedron, which can be unfolded and flattened to two dimensions. The flat map is heavily interrupted in order to preserve shapes and sizes.

The March 1, 1943, edition of *Life* magazine included a photographic essay titled *Life Presents R. Buckminster Fuller's Dymaxion World*. The article included several examples of its use together with a pull-out section that could be assembled as a "three-dimensional approximation of a globe or laid out as a flat map, with which the world may be fitted together and rearranged to illuminate special aspects of its geography." Fuller applied for a patent in the United States in February 1944, the patent application showing a projection onto a cuboctahedron. The patent was issued in January 1946.

The 1954 version published by Fuller, the Airocean World Map, used a modified but mostly regular icosahedron as the base for the projection, which is the version most commonly referred to today. This version depicts the Earth's continents as "one island," or nearly contiguous land masses.

The Dymaxion projection is intended only for representations of the entire globe. It is not a gnomonic projection, whereby global data expands from the center point of a tangent facet outward to the edges. Instead, each triangle edge of the Dymaxion map matches the scale of a partial great circle on a corresponding globe, and other points within each facet shrink toward its middle, rather than enlarging to the peripheries.

Fuller claimed that his map had several advantages over other projections for world maps, including:



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### **Dymaxion Airocean World The Raleigh Edition of the Fuller Projection**

- Less distortion of relative size of areas, most notably when compared to the Mercator projection; and less distortion of shapes of areas, notably when compared to the Gall-Peters projection.
- The Dymaxion map does not have any "right way up". Fuller argued that in the universe there is no "up" and "down", or "north" and "south": only "in" and "out". Gravitational forces of the stars and planets created "in", meaning 'towards the gravitational center', and "out", meaning "away from the gravitational center". He attributed the north-up-superior/south-down-inferior presentation of most other world maps to cultural bias.

Fuller intended the map to be unfolded in different ways to emphasize different aspects of the world. Peeling the triangular faces of the icosahedron apart in one way results in an icosahedral net that shows an almost contiguous land mass comprising all of Earth's continents - not groups of continents divided by oceans. Peeling the solid apart in a different way presents a view of the world dominated by connected oceans surrounded by land.

Showing the continents as "one island earth" also helped Fuller explain, in his book *Critical Path*, the journeys of early seafaring people, who were in effect using prevailing winds to circumnavigate this world island.

#### **Detailed Condition:**

Minor abrasions, primarily at the bottom of the image.