



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

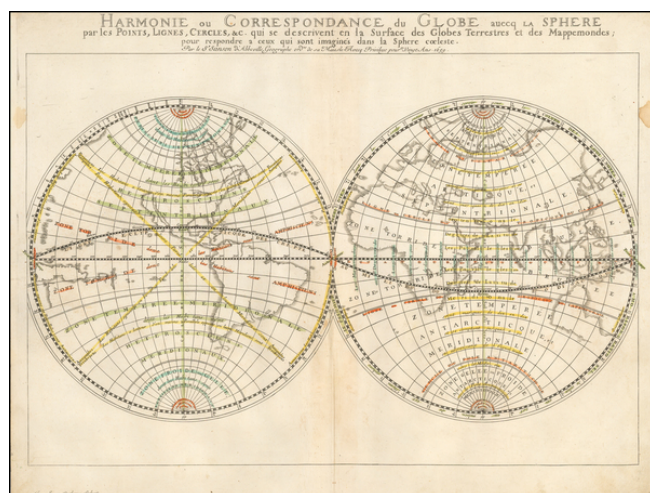
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Harmonie ou Correspondance du Globe avecq la Sphere par les Points, Lignes, Cercles &c. qui se Descrivent en la Surface des Globes Terrestres et des Mappemondes; pour respondre a ceux qui sont imaginés dans la Sphere coeleste. [Harmony or Correspondence of the Globe with the Sphere through Points, Lines, Circles, etc. that are Described on the Surface of Terrestrial Globes and World Maps; to correspond to those that are imagined in the celestial Sphere.]

Stock#: 50413
Map Maker: Sanson
Date: 1659
Place: Paris
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG+
Size: 15 x 21 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Nicolas Sanson's 1659 double-page engraved world map, titled *Harmonie ou Correspondance du Globe avecq la Sphere*, offers a fascinating blend of scientific curiosity and early cartographic interpretation. While primarily highlighting latitudes, zones, and meridians, the map also features a number of intriguing geographical representations, including California and Korea depicted as islands and an unusual rendering of Australia.

The mid-17th century marked a time of significant advancements in the field of geography and cartography, and Sanson, a leading French cartographer of his time, was at the forefront of these developments. His focus on the latitudes, zones, and meridians reflects the era's heightened interest in spherical geometry and astronomy, and in understanding the Earth's place within the wider cosmos. The map serves as an embodiment of these scientific explorations, and more broadly, of the Age of Enlightenment's emphasis on reason and knowledge.

The geographical features on the map represent a captivating aspect of Sanson's work. His depiction of California and Korea as islands, for instance, underlines the interpretative fluidity that characterized early modern cartography. These representations, while not accurate by contemporary understanding, provide insight into the geographical knowledge and assumptions of the 17th-century cartographic world.



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Similarly, the detailed yet unusual representation of Australia underscores the challenges early explorers faced in charting distant lands.

The phrase "pour respondre a ceux qui sont imaginés dans la Sphere coeleste" translates from French to "to correspond to those [points, lines, circles] which are imagined in the celestial sphere." This suggests that the map attempts to align or relate the geographical features and divisions of the Earth (as represented on the globe or mappemonde) with the imagined divisions of the celestial sphere—the apparent sphere of the night sky as observed from Earth.

The 'celestial sphere' concept was central to early astronomy and navigation, particularly before the acceptance of a heliocentric model of the solar system. The sky was envisioned as a sphere surrounding the Earth, on which the stars, planets, and other celestial bodies were positioned. The celestial sphere was also divided by imaginary lines (corresponding to terrestrial latitude and longitude) into a grid, which helped in the location and movement tracking of celestial bodies.

Therefore, Sanson's aim with this map was to establish a harmonious correspondence between the terrestrial globe (representing Earth's geography) and the celestial sphere (representing the heavens), a pursuit that highlights the intertwined nature of geography and astronomy in early modern scientific understanding. This attempt reflects the intellectual context of the 17th century, a time of vibrant exploration and inquiry, when the mysteries of both the terrestrial and celestial were subjects of intense study and fascination.

The map was engraved by Jean Sommer Pruthenus.

Detailed Condition:

Old outline hand-color. Minor marginal staining.