



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman  
Antique Maps Inc.**

7407 La Jolla Boulevard  
La Jolla, CA 92037

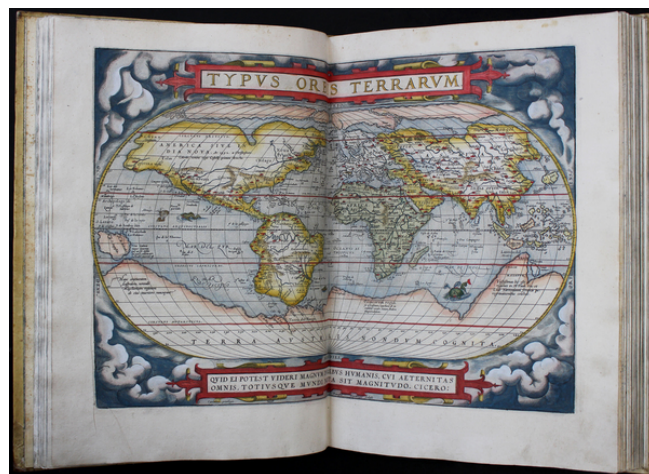
[www.raremaps.com](http://www.raremaps.com)

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

---

**(Atlas) Theatrum Orbis Terrarum**

**Stock#:** 51673  
**Map Maker:** Ortelius  
**Date:** 1571  
**Place:** Antwerp  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 16.25 x 11.5 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



**Description:**

***The First Modern Atlas of the World***

[39] preliminary text leaves (including engraved title), 53 hand-colored double-page engraved maps, all mounted on original guards.

Antwerp: Gielis Coppens van Diest, 1571.

Folio (16.25 x 11.5 inches), contemporary full vellum, spine in seven compartments, contemporary ink manuscript in the second "Theatrum Orbis Terrari", manuscript decorative device in the third.

***A Handsome, Clean, and Tall Copy of the Second Latin Edition of the 'First Atlas', with the Maps on Thick Paper.***

This is one of the very earliest obtainable editions of the *Theatrum*, following the first edition by less than one year. The present volume contains the FIRST STATE, FIRST PLATE, of Ortelius's famed world map.

Ortelius's *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* (or "Theater of the World") is widely considered to be the first true modern atlas. The *Theatrum* was the best available summary of 16th-century cartographic knowledge, covering much of the exploration of the world in the century following the discovery of America.

The atlas was first published in 1570 in Antwerp, and it was published consistently until 1612. Recent research has unearthed examples of the atlas with maps dated to 1640.



**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)

---

**(Atlas) Theatrum Orbis Terrarum**

Ortelius was the artist of all of the maps; he drew them by hand, and those drawings were interpreted into prints by his engravers Frans Hogenberg, Ambrosius Arsenius, and Ferdinand Arsenius.

The broad appeal of the *Theatrum* saw demand from many consumers who preferred to read the atlas in their local language. Thus, in addition to Latin, the book was published with text in Dutch, French, German, Italian, Spanish, and English.

After Ortelius's death in 1598, the copper plates for his atlas passed to his heirs. They, in turn, sold the collection to Jan Baptist Vrients (1522-1612) in 1601. Vrients added new maps and published the atlas until his death in 1612. Vrients's widow then sold the plates to the Moretus brothers, who were the successors of Christoffel Plantin.

**Detailed Condition:**

A handsome copy overall. Housed in very attractive modern 1/4 black morocco clamshell box. Expertly repaired clean tears to map 7 and map 27. Light stain to the outer margin of first 8 text leaves. Box mislabeled "1573", which will be corrected by the binder.