



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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Nova Totius Terrarum Orbis Tabula.

Stock#: 54815
Map Maker: Danckerts
Date: 1696 circa
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 34 x 39 inches
Price: \$ 67,500.00



Description:

Exceptionally Rare and Striking Seventeenth-Century Wall Map of the World by Cornelis Danckerts

Stunning, old-color example of this exceedingly rare four-sheet wall map of the world, published in Amsterdam by Cornelis Danckerts. This is only the second example known.

The present example is an extraordinary survival, being an earlier state of a wall map previously recorded in a single, later state by Johannes Van Keulen and held at the University of Leiden. Rodney Shirley posited that the map likely existed in earlier states and this is the first evidence to support that hypothesis. The present survival is made all the more remarkable by the extraordinarily bold original color, as most seventeenth-century wall maps typically have severely faded or broken color remnants.

The map was most likely initially published by Frederick de Wit in the mid-1660s. Shirley suspects that it was the result of a collaboration of de Wit and Romeyn de Hooghe, who here did reduced versions of the border decorations that are on de Wit's maritime world map of 1668.

Then, in ca. 1696, Danckerts issued this state, which includes a dedicatory portrait to *Principi Wilhelmo III*. This refers to King William III of England, also known as Prince Wilhem Hendrik of Orange.

Danckerts' address in the cartouche in the South Indian Ocean helps to date this state. The Cornelis



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Danckerts identified on the map would be Cornelis II (1664-1717), the grandson of Cornelis Danckerts the Elder and son of Justus Danckerts. The map cartouche lists the address of the prominent bookbinder Albertus Magnus, who had died in 1689. Danckerts married Magnus' daughter, Geertrui, in 1696 and moved into the Widow Magnus' premises on the "*Nieuwendijk in den Atlas.*" 1696 was also the year that William became Stadtholder of Drenthe, which may have spurred the re-issuance of the map.

The map is arresting in its compelling geographic and decorative composition. The double-hemisphere world map is augmented by two polar insets. The southern polar inset shows only Tierra del Fuego, highlighting how little verified information existed about the far southern latitudes. In the north, Greenland seems to approach the pole and is connected to North Americas, making an open-water Northwest Passage unlikely, although a Northeast Passage is still possible.

In the western hemispheres, California is shown as an island. There is a single huge lake where the Great Lakes are. The Strait of Anian makes inroads to the interior of the continent in the Pacific Northwest, suggesting a riverine Northwest Passage.

In the Pacific, New Zealand is shown as a fragmented coast. Farther north, the North Pacific chimeras are evident. Yedso, an exaggerated representation of Hokkaido, is near Staten and Compagnies Land, both of which were discovered in the 1640s when Dutch ships were searching for another mythical land, de Gama's Land.

In the eastern hemisphere, China is scarred by a huge, snaking Xano Desert. This was a feature that appeared on the maps of Visscher, who de Wit used as a model. The Great Wall of China is also marked. Australia is connected to New Guinea. Its toponyms come from Dutch interactions with the Australian coast throughout the seventeenth century.

The decorative border is also an important part of the map. Each of the four corners represents one of the four elements. In the top left is fire, shown as a powerful explosion in the fog of war. Continuing clockwise, air is represented as a celestial scene with numerous birds and classical deities. Water features Poseidon being worshiped with ships sailing in the background, while earth's corner is a pastoral scene.

William of Orange

William III and II (1650-1702) was born in Binnenhof Palace in the Hague, the only child of William II, Prince of Orange, and his consort, Mary, eldest daughter of Charles I. Although his family was struck by setbacks and weakened by republicanism at the time of William's birth, by 1672 he had been restored to his offices and was leading the Dutch lands against the threat of French invasion.



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In 1677, William married Mary, daughter of the future James II and William's first cousin. In late 1688, William invaded his father-in-law's kingdom and took power as ruler of England, Scotland, and Ireland, along with Mary. She died, however, in 1694, leaving William to rule alone until his death in 1702.

Rarity

This is the only known example of this state of the map. A single example of a later van Keulen state exists at the University of Leiden, as noted above.

Detailed Condition:

Old color. 4 sheet map, plus separately printed title banner at top. A few abrasions expertly filled with minor facsimile reinstatement (mainly in blank areas). Color retouched.