



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

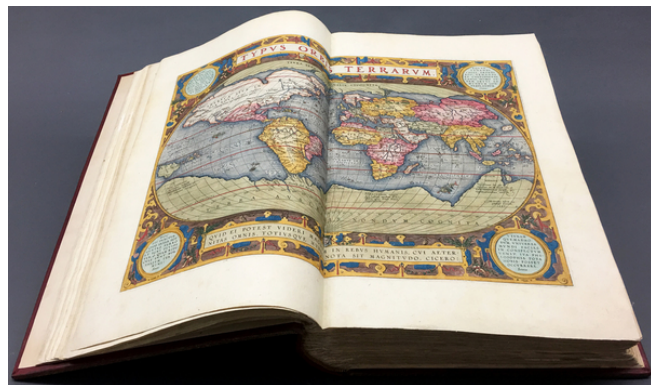
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(Atlas) Theatro Del Mondo Di Abrahamo Ortelio . . .

Stock#: 55006
Map Maker: Ortelius
Date: 1608
Place: Antwerp
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 18.8 x 12.1 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The First Modern Atlas of the World

[39] preliminary text leaves (including engraved title), 166 hand-colored double-page engraved maps (lacking 10 preliminary sheets of text (A6, B1-6, D3-5), 3 maps and 2 plates (Piedmont, Parma and Plaisance, Abraham's Travels, Ordines Sacri Romani Imp.1, Ordines Sacri Romani Imp. II), the engraved title of the Parergon and 2 of the 3 leaflets that follow it.

Antwerp: Johannes Baptista Vrientius, 1608.

Folio (470 x 305 cm), Full Color. Red Morocco with gold. Housed in very attractive modern 1/4 black morocco clamshell box.

A Handsome, Clean, and Tall Copy of the First Italian Edition of the 'First Modern Atlas', with the Maps on Thick Paper.

This is one of the most complete editions of Ortelius's *Theatrum*.

The atlas includes maps of America (4), Europe (107 of which 24 for Italy), Asia (9), Africa (3), as well as the *Parergon*, including 38 historical maps and 3 views (Thessalia, Daphne, l'Escorial). Title-frontispiece with a large portrait of Pope Clement VIII on verso, the dedicatee of the edition, epitaph of Abraham Ortelius, portrait of the cartographer and several figures in the text, all engraved intaglio.

Overview

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,



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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.

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:

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