



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## Westphaliae Totius, Finitimarumque Regionum Accurata Descriptio

**Stock#:** 61580  
**Map Maker:** Ortelius  
**Date:** 1579  
**Place:** Antwerp  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 19.5 x 13.5 inches  
**Price:** \$275.00



### Description:

Fine old colored example of Ortelius' regional map of Germany, extending from Cologne and Dusseldorf, etc. on the Rhine, and East and West Friesland to Mynden, Bremene and Lyppe, centered on Osnabrugge.

### Abraham Ortelius

Abraham Ortelius (1527-1598) was, along with Gerard Mercator, the most important cartographer of the 16th century.

He was born in Antwerp to a family with connections in printing and publishing. Ortelius's uncle, Sir Jacobus van Meteren, took over the role of raising Ortelius after the latter's father had died.

In 1545 at the age of 18, Ortelius began his career as a map colorist. His sister Anna was also an accomplished colorist. He entered the Guild of St. Luke as a colorist two years later, and in 1547, he was registered as a colorist with the publisher Plantin.

In 1564, Ortelius published his first map, a large wall map of the world titled "Typus Orbis Terrarum". Today the map is known in only one example. Between 1564 and 1570, Ortelius made at least six single- and multi-sheet maps of his own.

1570 was the year Ortelius first published the book that would become his defining masterwork: the first true modern atlas of the world, *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*.



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### **Westphaliae Totius, Finitimarumque Regionum Accurata Descriptio**

In 1575, with the recommendation of Arias Montanus, Ortelius was appointed geographer to the King of Spain, Philip II.

#### **Theatrum Orbis Terrarum**

The present map comes from Abraham Ortelius's *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* (or "*Theater of the World*"), which 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.

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:**

Old color