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Novissima Totius Terrarum Orbis Tabula Auctore Nicolao Visscher

Stock#: 62284
Map Maker: Visscher I
Date: 1679
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 21 x 17 inches
Price: \$ 5,900.00



Description:

Striking Seventeenth-Century World Map

Gorgeous example of Nicholas Visscher's double-hemisphere world map, which appeared in his *Atlas Minor* after 1679.

The map is similar to the Visscher-Berchem world map of 1658 (Shirley, map 406), but the Straits of Anian have been reduced in size. The framing decorations are completely redone as well.

In the eastern hemisphere, a shaded area snakes through eastern Asia. This is the *Xamo Desertum*, a huge desert region in central China.

Farther south, New Guinea and Australia are seemingly connected via Carpentaria. New Holland is sprinkled with names in the north, west, and south that derive from Dutch East India Company ships encountering the Australian coast. These include *G. F. de Wits Landt*, which refers to the 1628 voyage of Gerrit Fredericksz De Wit to the western coast of Australia.

Nearby is *t'Landt van d'Eendracht*. The *Eendracht* was blown off course en route to the East Indies in that year. It was commanded by Dirk Hartog; Hartog's landing was the first recorded European landing on the western coast of Australia. It is marked here as well, *Dirck Hartochs Ree*. The crew commemorated their discovery by erecting a post with a pewter dish inscribed with their ship's information—the earliest physical record that historians have of any European landing in Australia.



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Along the southern coast, *'t Landt van de Leeuwin* is named for the *Leeuwin*, whose crew charted some of the southwest coastline in 1622. *'t Landt van Pieter Nuyts* is named for Pieter Nuyts, a Dutch navigator who commanded the *Gulden Zeepaert* along the southern coast in 1627.

In the western hemisphere, California is shown as an island. Just the western coast of New Zealand is visible, dating from the 1642 encounter between the Māori and Abel Tasman. In the far northwest, an island peeks out from the frame of the hemisphere. This is *Iedso*, or Yesso, a mythical island that was common on maps of the North Pacific at this time.

Between the two main hemispheres are smaller circles that show the north and south polar regions. The southern circle is empty save for Tierra del Fuego, while the northern circle includes much of northern Asia and incomplete shorelines in Greenland, Baffin Bay, and Nova Zemla.

Surrounding all of the geographic information are vignettes of the zodiac and the seasons.

Detailed Condition:

Marginal fold split, re-enforced on the verso.