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[World & Continents] Typus Orbis Terrarum / Americae . . . / Asiae . . . / Africae . . . / Europae

Stock#: 63250
Map Maker: Ortelius

Date: 1598
Place: Antwerp
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 19.5 x 14 inches each

Price: SOLD



Description:

The World & 4 Continents From the First Modern Atlas

Early matching set of maps of the World and Continents, from Abraham Ortelius' *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, the first modern World Atlas.

Ortelius' *Theatrum* was perhaps the single most influential set of maps published in the 16th Century. First issued in 1570 and expanded over the next forty two years to this final Vrients edition of Ortelius' masterwork, the Theatrum revolutionized the presentation of maps to an increasingly educated classes of Renaissance Europe and became the standard from which most cartographic works of the period were copied.

Ortelius meticulously searched Europe for the best available regional maps, constantly compiling, adding and updating his work. It is through Ortelius that the works of many regional mapmakers, whose works are virtually unobtainable to modern collectors, can be studied and appreciated.

Each of the five maps offered here were the standards for their time, drawn from the most important wall maps produced by Mercator, Ortelius and other leading European mapmakers and represented the completion of the shift of importance from the Italian mapmakers of the mid-16th Century (the so-called Lafreri School of mapmakers), to the Low Countries, marking the beginning of the Golden Age of Dutch Cartography.

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- **Typus Orbis Terrarum** is based upon the cartography of Gastaldi and Gerard Mercator's highly important 1569 wall map. The title is given in large letters above the image and below, is a quotation from Cicero: "What do human affairs signify when one considers the vastness of the world and all eternity?"
- **Americae sive Novi Orbis, Nova Descriptio** is probably the single most widely viewed and copied maps of America published in the 16th Century.
- **Asiae Nova Descriptio** is the atlas version of Ortelius' own wall map of Asia, published in 1567, derived from Gastaldi and Albufeda.
- **Africae Tabula Nova** is based on the Gastaldi wall map of 1564. It is embellished with a ferocious sea battle southeast of Madagascar and several sea monsters in the Atlantic. The drawing of the far eastern coast of Brazil, shown as well below the Equator.
- **Europae** derives in large part from Mercator's work. Russia from Jenkinson's map and Scandinavia from Olaus Magnus. The relatively modest cartouche shows partially covered and apparently distraught Europe sitting on the back of a placid Zeus as bull, both gazing toward Europe.

Overall a very attractive uniform set of Ortelius' maps of the World & Continents, from an early edition of his ***Theatrum Orbis Terrarum.***

Rarity

While the individual maps of the world and each of the continents appear regularly on the market, matching sets from the same edition of the atlas are relatively scarce.

Detailed Condition: