



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

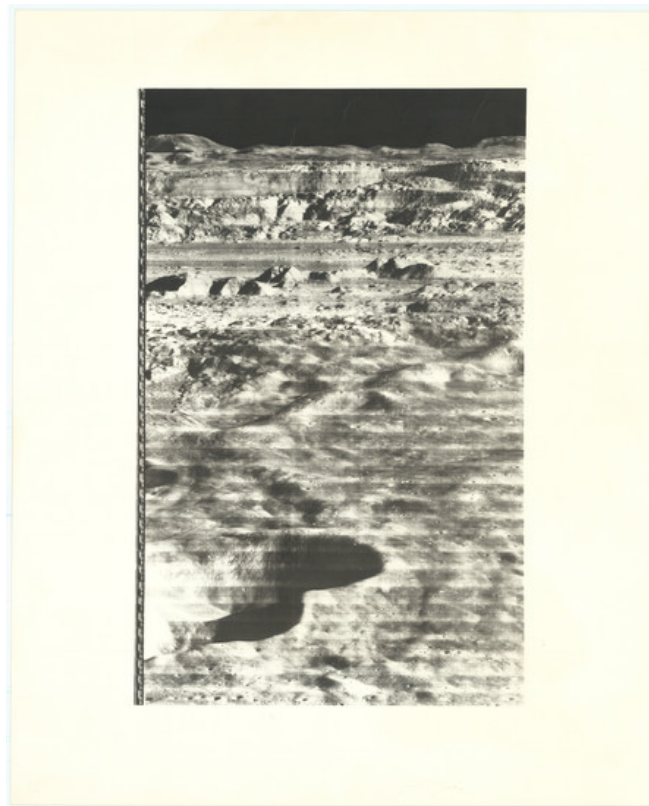
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(Lunar Orbiter 2) Copernicus Crater

Stock#: 67324
Map Maker: NASA / Boeing
Date: 1966
Place: n.p.
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 16 x 20 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

"One of the great pictures of the century" - Time Magazine

A picture looking obliquely across Copernicus Crater, which appeared in Time Magazine after NASA Scientist Martin Swetnick called it "one of the great pictures of the century." In it, we see nearly sixty miles across a deep crater, with hundreds more miles of lunar surface in the foreground and background. Except for the jet black sky, one could nearly picture a similar scene on earth.

Surprisingly, this image was only taken as a means to advance the film between the surveying of possible landing sites. The footage was never intended to be used, but the perfect image that happened to be captured so impressed scientists and the public that it became an immediate hit.

The Copernicus Crater was formed as a result of a relatively young meteorite impact, with guesses for the age of formation of around 800 million years before present. Lunar Orbiter 5 surveyed the crater in greater detail, and Terry Offield of the USGS described the formation as having "a hummocky crater rim,



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numerous large slump blocks on the crater wall, and a complex of central peaks. Sets of parallel fractures, aligned with the lunar structure grid, formed after the crater wall took its present form, but before the smoothest floor materials were emplaced. The smooth floor materials show a swirling pattern of cracks like those seen on terrestrial lava flows. These materials are associated with numerous hills that have summit craters and are probably small volcanoes. Several low places on the rim and wall are partly filled by what appears to be ponded volcanic material, or possibly fluidized impact debris."

Provenance

From the collection of a veteran of Boeing's Public Relations and Advertising Department who joined the company in 1961.

Detailed Condition:

Glossy photograph printed in 1966 or very shortly thereafter.