



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

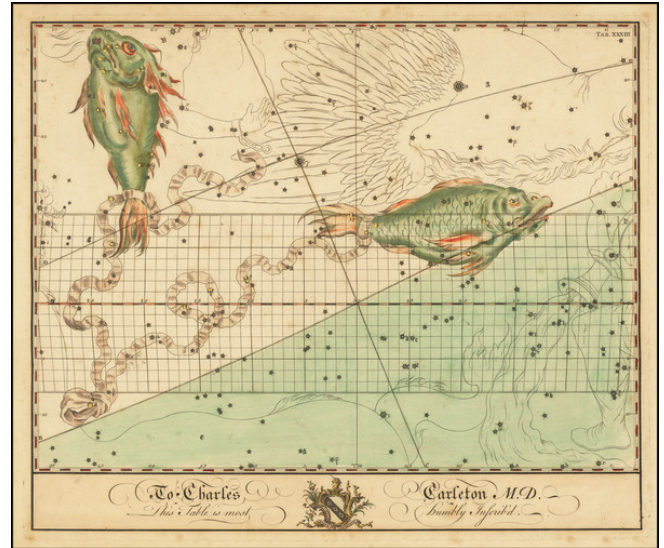
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## [Pisces]

**Stock#:** 67334  
**Map Maker:** Bevis  
**Date:** 1750 circa  
**Place:** London  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 15 x 12.5 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

A rare star chart centered on Pisces, showing two fish tied by their tails. This is one of the earliest zodiac signs to be recorded, with an inscription found in an Egyptian tomb dating to 2300 B.C. In Greek myth, Pisces represents the two fish that Aphrodite and her son Eros [Cupid] transformed into to escape Typhon.

The chart includes a colored Pisces and uncolored parts of the constellations of Andromeda, Pegasus, Aquarius, Cetus, and Aries. Major stars are shown according to brightness. The image is orientated so that the ecliptic line lies horizontally. The equatorial line intersects this at an angle with the southern hemisphere colored in blue.

This copy was dedicated to "Charles Carleton, M.D." A coat of arms is displayed in the center with the motto "Salus cum libertate" or "safety and freedom."

### The Uranographia

Historians of astronomy name four great celestial atlases: Bayer's, Hevelius's, Flamsteed's, and Bode's. To this, they add one great work that could have been: Bevis's *Uranographia*. While the creation of this work achieved much notoriety and the publication was greatly awaited, the printer Neale's bankruptcy derailed the project. Fortunately, the plates had already been made and separately issued copies, in addition to thirty completed works, were made.

The atlas comprised 51 plates, the same number as Bayer's. Further, each plate analyzes the same



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celestial region. However, Bevis greatly added to the detail of Bayer's work, drawing on his own astronomical knowledge. Copies of these printings which survived were of great public and scientific interest at the time.

Careful cross-referencing of the dedications on each work allows the date for the creation of the plates to be constrained to between 1747-1749. By comparing the titles suggested in the work to Royal Society and clergy records, upper and lower bounds of the date of creation can be made.

References to a posthumous 1786 Bevis *Atlas Celeste* prove difficult to follow. Academic debate as to the nature of a paper residing in the British Library copy of the Uranographia advertising a 1786 publication suggests that there was an effort after Bevis's death to resell the work, without crediting him. Other "title page" editions, including one from 1818 held at Cambridge's Whipple Library, advertise a similar thing. Ashworth concludes that several later entrepreneurs tried to resell the original copy under their own name, with the 1786 copy being a prime example of a "ghost work."

**Detailed Condition:**

Laid paper with mid-to-late-18th century watermarks. Minor toning spots around the margins.