



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

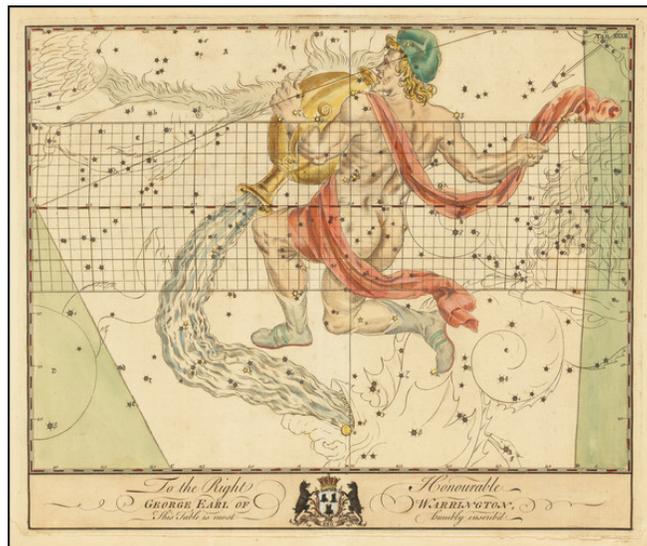
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[Aquarius]

Stock#: 67370
Map Maker: Bevis
Date: 1750 circa
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: Good
Size: 14.5 x 12 inches
Price: Not Available



Description:

A rare star chart centered on Aquarius, showing a man holding a water jug. Aquarius represents the shepherd son of Tros whom Zeus fell in love with and ascended into the stars. This constellation is radiant for four meteor showers, including the South Delta Aquariids.

The chart includes a delicately colored Aquarius and uncolored parts of the constellations of Pisces, Cetus, Aquila and others. Major stars are shown according to brightness. The image is orientated so that the ecliptic line lies horizontally. Other lines of astrological importance are also shown.

This copy was dedicated to "George, Earl of Warrington." This refers to George Booth, an English nobleman of the time renowned for his fine silver collection. A coat of arms is displayed in the center with the motto "Quod ero spero" or "what I hope to accomplish, I shall," the Booth family crest.

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:

Repaired tear along the bottom platemark. Stars heightened in gold.