



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

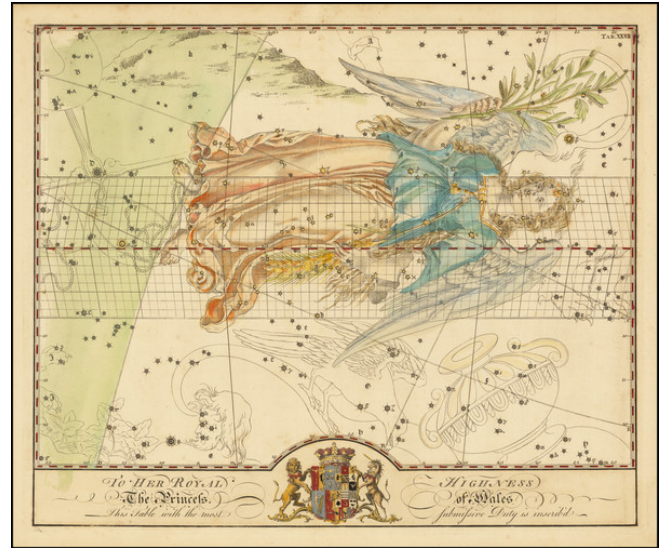
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[Virgo]

Stock#: 67436
Map Maker: Bevis
Date: 1750
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 14.5 x 12 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare separately issued celestial map of Virgo, from John Bevis' Celestial Atlas.

The map is dedicated to James Bradley, Royal and Savilian Professor of Astronomy, and member of the Royal Academy of Paris and Berlin. James Bradley (1693 - 1762) was an English astronomer and served as Astronomer Royal from 1742, succeeding Edmund Halley. He is best known for two fundamental discoveries in astronomy, the aberration of light (1725-1728), and the nutation of the Earth's axis (1728-1748).

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 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.



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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:

Old color