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Coeli Stellati Christiani Haemisphaerium Posterius

Stock#: 67500
Map Maker: Cellarius
Date: 1660
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 20 x 17 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

A striking celestial hemispheric star chart by Andreas Cellarius. The image is intricately designed, with three different charts showing a large variety of constellations. Most important on this chart is the Christianization of the constellations, a rarely shown retelling of all major constellations.

This is the first edition of the map, preceding the addition of plate numbers in the lower right corners of the maps (in 1661), and before the addition of Valk & Schenk's imprint in the title blocks (in 1708).

This spectacular celestial chart presents the constellations according to Christian symbolism. The view of the constellations is based on the work of the early 17th-century astronomer, Julius Schiller, who sought to replace the traditional pagan symbols with ones derived from Judeo-Christian sources. Schiller replaced the zodiacal constellations with the twelve apostles, the constellations north of the zodiac by figures from the New Testament and the constellations south of the zodiac by figures from the Old Testament.

On this chart, the major constellations are represented as follows:

- Sagittarius = Matthew
- Aquarius = Judas Thaddeus
- Pisces = Matthias
- Aries = Peter
- Taurus = Andrew



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- Cassiopeia = Mary Magdalene
- Orion = Joseph
- Cygnus = St. Helena, holding the cross.
- The River of Eridanus = The parting of the Red Sea

Unsurprisingly, this Christianization of constellations did not catch on. The "pagan" constellations are still with us today, along with the stories they tell. This is a rare and very attractive example of this brief fad in astronomy.

The *Harmonica Macrocosmica* of Andreas Cellarius is widely regarded as the most beautiful and finely executed celestial atlas ever published. The atlas appeared in two early editions of 1660 and 1661, and was also intended as part of Jansson's *Atlas Maior*. Schenk & Valk re-issued the atlas in 1708, using the original Cellarius plates, without alteration, except for the addition of their names in the title cartouche.

Detailed Condition: