



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Americae Nova Tabula (Rare Variant)

Stock#: 68509
Map Maker: Blaeu
Date: 1621 (1633)
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 18 x 14 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Scarce Variant of Blaeu's Map of the Americas

This is a decorative example of Blaeu's map of America, one of the most sought after maps of the continent from the Golden Age of Dutch Cartography. The map blends contemporary geographical knowledge with a rich artistic image. Blaeu's maps set the standard for quality maps of the period, with exceptional engraving, paper, color, and design.

The map includes a magnificent peninsular California with the northwest coast of America nearly aligned with the 40th parallel. Over thirty place names appear on the peninsula. The map also includes an unusual east coast of North America, packed full of placenames, including Chesapiooc (Chesapeake), Sanawanook, Hatoraske (Hatteras); Charlefort, Cap de S. Roman, and many more. The Virginian coastline possesses a curious bulge, giving way to a bay in New England. No Great Lakes are shown, except perhaps Ontario and Eerie, nor does Long Island appear.

An important note on the St. Lawrence River marks the "Primier Sault," or first rapids. These can be taken as the Lachine Rapids, which flow along the Island of Montreal. These rapids were discovered to Europeans by Jacques Cartier and had been crossed for the first time in 1611 shortly before the creation of the first state of this map.

South America is vastly oversized on the map. A large lake appears just north of the Amazon, in Guiana. Statelandt faintly appears. Other curiosities include the Rio Grande flowing into the Gulf of California, with the seven cities of Cevola appearing at its source. An inset in the top of the map shows the area



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around Greenland, including the phantom island of Frislandia. In this state, Blaue leaves the text "Tera Australis Incognita," despite having removed the large southern continent.

Other attractive details appear throughout the map. Ships and sea monsters appear throughout the southern Pacific and Atlantic. The map includes a simple and decorative cartouche.

This is the third state of the map, which was made in 1621. The image lacks the decorative borders featuring the cultural dresses of the period, focusing solely on the map. Burden calls this the one curious issue of the map. This example lacks text on the verso, something else that Burden describes as "extremely rare."

The map was issued in Emanuel van Meteren's *Meteranus Novus*, published in Amsterdam in 1633. The figured borders were covered during printing so that the work could fit in the smaller-sized book.

Detailed Condition:

Cut close to margin along left side. Top margin expertly extended from just inside the neatline at the left side to outside the neatline on the right.