



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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Atlas sive cosmographicae meditationes de fabrica mundi et fabricati figura. De novo multis in locis emendatus novisque tabulis auctus studio Judoci Hondij.

Stock#: 68987
Map Maker: Hondius & Mercator
Date: 1630
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 11.75 x 8.75 inches
Price: \$ 22,500.00



Description:

The First of the Cloppenburg-Edition Mercator Atlases and the First Appearance of Australia in an Atlas

"This is the first of the so-called Cloppenburg editions...", as Koeman explains, and it is a beautiful example of this 1630 French-language edition of the Mercator-Hondius *Atlas Minor*.

The world map in this atlas was also the first to include a depiction of the Dutch encounters with western Australia, shown as a coastline called *T lant van Eendracht*.

This was the first edition to utilize the newly-engraved plates, most of which were engraved by Pieter van den Keere for Johannes Cloppenburg. The Cloppenburg edition offers the largest maps featured in any of the reduced versions of the Mercator-Hondius atlas.

Two other Cloppenburg editions were issued in 1632 and 1636, after which the atlas was suppressed, most likely by Johannes Janssonius, who had a competing miniature atlas. In 1673, this atlas was resurrected by Johannes Janssonius's son-in-law, Johannes Janssonius van Waesberge, who expanded it ([see this example](#)).

The atlas' 180 maps offer comprehensive coverage of the world as it was then known to Europeans. It includes fine regional maps for Asia, Africa, and the Americas, roughly following the outline in the folio-sized Mercator-Hondius *Atlas*.

First depiction of Australia in an atlas

This atlas also has the distinction of being the first atlas to feature a map that shows part of the Australian



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coastline. The world map in this atlas is a reduced version of Hondius' ca. 1625 world map, which was the first world map to show the Dutch encounters with the west coast of Australia.

This world map features *Tlant van Eendracht*. The *Eendracht* was blown off course en route to the East Indies in 1616. It was commanded by Dirk Hartog. Hartog's landing was the first recorded European landing on the western coast of Australia and the crew commemorated their discovery by erecting a post with a pewter dish inscribed with their ship's information—the earliest physical record extant of any European landing in Australia. Hartog returned to tell of his feat to his employer, the Dutch East India Company (VOC), and the landmass began to feature on maps in the 1620s.

The Mercator-Hondius Atlas

One of Hondius' most successful commercial ventures was the reprinting of Mercator's atlas. Gerard Mercator died in 1594 without having completed his most ambitious project, an atlas of the entire world. His son and grandsons completed the work and released its final volume in 1595.

The younger Mercators released another edition in 1602, but they then sold the plates to Jodocus Hondius the Elder in 1604. Hondius published his first edition in 1606; there were roughly fifty editions in various European languages in the seventeenth century.

Hondius died in 1612, at only 48 years of age, after which time his son of the same name and his other son, Henricus, took over the business, including the reissuing of the Mercator atlas. After 1633, Hondius the Elder's son-in-law, Johannes Janssonius, was also listed as a co-publisher for the atlas.

In 1630, Dutch cartographer and publisher Johannes Cloppenburg arranged the re-engraving of the Mercator atlas in a reduced version; it was the last of the four reduced versions to be produced and features the largest maps of any of them. Most of the engraving was done by the skilled Pieter van den Keere. The work was published as the *Atlas Minor* in 1630, 1632, and 1636, with an expansion by Janssonius van Waesberge in 1673.

Watch Geography Geek's Discussion of this Atlas's Role in the History of the Discovery of Australia:



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Detailed Condition:

Oblong quarto. Two parts in one volume. 17th- or 18th-century mottled calf, gilt, red morocco spine labeling piece "Atlas de Marcator" (heavily worn, back hinge starting). 180 engraved maps, all of which in contemporary outline hand-color: the first part with 158 maps (complete as indexed); the "Appendix ou Addition" contains 22 maps (the first map of the Appendix is present but not illustrated here). (Original hand-color. Variable paper toning, sometimes fairly strong, as illustrated.)