



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

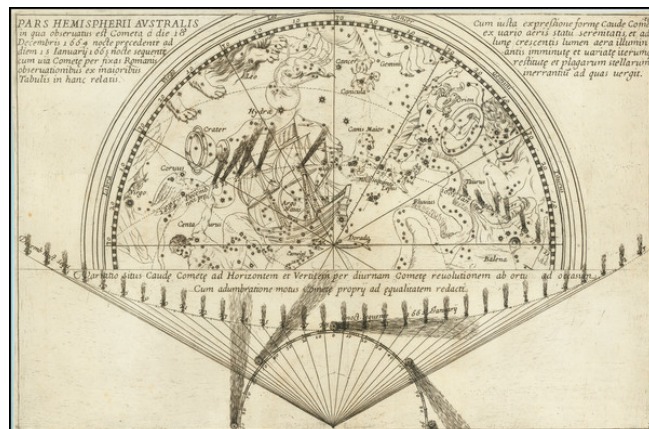
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Pars Hemispherii Australis in qua observatus est cometa a die 18 Decembris 1664 nocte precedente ad diem Ianuarius 1665 nocte sequente cum via Comete per fixas Romanis observationibus ex maioribus Tabulis in hanc relatis

Stock#: 70031
Map Maker: Cassini
Date: 1665
Place: Rome
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 15 x 10 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Cassini's Mapping of the Comet of 1664-65

Finely engraved image of the comet which passed through the European skies between December 18, 1664 and January 15, 1665, which appeared Giovanni Domenico Cassini's rare *Theoria Motus Cometae Anni MDCLXIV* . . .

The map is centered on Argo Navis, Canis Major, Hydra and Orion, with an arc tracking the transit of the comet across the main map from left to right beginning on December 18, 1664 and ending January 15, 1665. At the bottom center is a circular model, illustrating Cassini's theory on the orbit of the comet, which was at the time quite advanced for its time.

Cassini's observations of the comet led to his formulation of a new theory (in agreement with the Tychoonian system) in which the orbit of the comet is a great circle whose center is situated in the direction of Sirius and whose perigee is beyond the orbit of Saturn. Cassini's detailed observations of the comet were made with a powerful new telescope constructed by Roman lensmakers Giuseppe Campani and Eustachio Divini. Beginning in 1664, Cassini was able to obtain powerful celestial telescopes of great focal length.

The large engraved plate depicts the course of the comet in the southern celestial hemisphere from December 13 1664 through the middle of January of 1665. It also shows the appearance and direction of the comet's tail in a series of nightly dated observations. The great comet of 1664-5 was observed by many astronomers, including Newton, Auzout, Borelli, Fabri, Hooke, Hevelius, Huygens, Hooke



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Montanari and Petit.

Rarity

Cassini's *Theoria Motus Cometae Anni MDCLXIV* . . . is very rare on the market. This individual plate is even rarer in commerce.

Detailed Condition: