



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

[The Rarest State] Americae Sive Novi Orbis Nova Descriptio

Stock#: 71113
Map Maker: Ortelius
Date: 1618 - 1630 circa
Place: Antwerp
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 19 x 14 inches
Price: \$14,500.00



Description:

A Cornerstone of Abraham Ortelius Collecting -- The Final State of Abraham Ortelius' Map of the Americas, One of the Most Iconic Maps of the Western Hemisphere

Abraham Ortelius's map of America is without doubt one of the most recognized and influential maps of the Americas from the sixteenth century and had a profound influence on contemporary cartography.

The present example is the final state of the third edition, published shortly after the discovery of the Le Maire Strait. This final state of the map was a separate publication, post-dating the last regularly published edition of Ortelius's atlas in 1612. There is no text on the verso.

Ortelius' went through three major revisions to the plates between 1570 and 1612, along with this extremely rare final state, issued separately after 1617, several decades after Ortelius's death.

Major Changes -- 1617

The changes to the map appear around the Strait of Magellan. These include:

- Terra del Fuego now appears as an island of sorts, surrounded on sides by water
- The entrance to Magellan Strait now includes the name Fretum le Maire
- The Names Maruritus and C. Hoor (Cape Horn) appear on the new "island" of Terra del Fuego
- Staatenlant is shown as a promontory across the Fretum Le Maire from Terra del Fuego
- The coast of the Southern continent has been significantly changed, removing a number of place names, including C. del Fuego, P. Grande, P. del Nort, Sierra de menadas, Campana de Roldan and



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

[The Rarest State] Americae Sive Novi Orbis Nova Descriptio

C.mal conoschiudo

- An island north of the former C.mal consosciudo has been removed and the river modified
- I. Barnevelt has been added south of Terra del Fuego
- The date of 1587 has been removed at the bottom right.

There are other changes on the map of note:

- B. de Todos Santos (Brazil) appears for the first time, replacing "R. real"
- R. Prenambuco has been replaced by "Fernambuco" with the symbol of a settlement shown.

Previous scholarship on this map seems to have overlooked the two Brazilian changes (see Schilder's notes below), which may be important clues in dating the plate. Archival research has shown that Moretus intended to republish the *Theatrum* in 1618, but failed to do so. The Le Maire changes support dating the plate changes to circa 1618. However, the Brazilian changes mean that a publication date of circa 1630 is far more likely; Recife and Bahia Todo Santos were the major focuses of Dutch colonization efforts in that year, while they were not particularly important to the Low Countries before that. The other possibility is that the map was revised once in circa 1618, and again in circa 1630, though examples of the final state are too rare to make comparisons.

Scholarly Note

Schilder, *Monumenta Cartographica Neerlandica*, Volume III, page 256:

. . . for a long time it was supposed that the history of this atlas of the world ended with the Spanish edition of 1612, and that the copperplates were not used any more. Already in Volume II of my Monumenta Cartographica Neerlandica I have referred to the copperplates for the maps of Ortelius, which were re-published, complete with alterations, by Theodoor Galle and his son Joannes.

From archive material we know that in 1618 Balthasar Moretus made preparations for a reissue of the Theatrum: he paid rather high sums to engravers Ferdinand Arsenius and Arnold Floris van Langren for the adaptation of the copperplates. The mathematician Godefridus Vendelius was to write an explanatory text. For reasons unknown this project was shelved. However, the recent discovery of a complete copy of the atlas provides that, in spite of this, an atlas of the world appeared in the forties [1640s], in which the plates were printed on the old Spanish text sheets of 1612. Both on the map of the world by Ortelius and on the one of America the representation of the big, unknown Southland ('Terra Avstralis nondvm



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

[The Rarest State] *Americae Sive Novi Orbis Nova Descriptio*

cognita', 'Terra Avstralis, sive Magellanica hactenus incognita', respectively) in the region of South America is interrupted and completed with the discoveries made during the voyage of Le Maire. Both maps include the following names: 'Fretum le Maire', 'Mauritius', 'staten lant', 'C. Hoorn' and 'I. Barnevelt'. On both map the islands of the Pacific, discovered by Le Maire, as well as the new shape of the northern coast of New Guinea were overlooked.

Overview of the Third Edition

First issued in 1587, this third edition was an important update.

North and South America stretch across this single hemisphere map. To the north, North America somewhat resembles the continent we know today, except the area near Alaska is undefined and the northwest bulges to the east. South America is a squat landmass, early editions have an extension in the southwest that would disappear in later editions of the map.

The title is decorated with the key-like geometric decorations common to the maps in Ortelius' atlas. In the ocean, a sea monster lurks. In the Pacific, ships stream through the water, their sails filled with imaginary winds.

Two place names in the northwest of North America are particularly interesting. Anian derives from Ania, a Chinese province on a large gulf mentioned in Marco Polo's travels (ch. 5, book 3). The gulf Polo described was actually the Gulf of Tonkin, but the province's description was transposed from Vietnam to the northwest coast of North America. The first map to do was Giacomo Gastaldi's world map of 1562, followed by Zaltieri and Mercator in 1567. The Strait then became shorthand for a passage to China, i.e. a Northwest Passage. It appeared on maps until the mid-eighteenth century.

The Straits of Magellan separate South America from a large southern continent that extends all the way to New Guinea. Tierra del Fuego, named by Magellan because he saw so many small fires burning there, is part of this continent. The name "Novae Guinea", or New Guinea, was coined by Spanish explorer Íñigo Ortíz de Retes in 1545, and it refers to his opinion that the appearance of the native peoples resembled the natives of the Guinea region of Africa.

Quivira refers to the Seven Cities of Gold sought by the Spanish explorer Francisco Vasquez de Coronado in 1541. In 1539, Coronado wandered over what today is Arizona and New Mexico, eventually heading to what is now Kansas to find the supposedly rich city of Quivira. Although he never found the cities or the gold, the name stuck on maps of southwest North America, wandering from east to west.



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

[The Rarest State] Americae Sive Novi Orbis Nova Descriptio

Ortelius' ability to locate and draw upon both Spanish and Portuguese sources is apparent throughout the map, and is quite remarkable, given the manner in which each nation guarded its cartographic information. Both nations kept their geographic knowledge locked in a single institution, with all cartographic knowledge maintained on a single master map. Copies of the master map were closely monitored and pilots could be punished for not returning their charts; however, no vault is impenetrable and geographic secrets leaked out, including to Ortelius in Antwerp.

Importance Of the Third Edition

The success of Ortelius' *Theatrum* meant that his map of America was one of the most widely circulated maps of America, of the period, and would have therefore had a profound impact on the European vision of America in the 16th century. This third edition incorporated several highly important new discoveries.

- ***The first appearance of the Chesapeake Bay on a map:*** The inclusion of a large inlet in the east seaboard of North America, labeled with the Indian name "Wingandekoa", reflects the earliest unsuccessful attempts by the English to colonize the Outer Banks of present-day North Carolina.
- ***The first appearance of the Solomon Islands on a map:*** While the islands were first discovered by Álvaro de Mendaña de Neira in 1568, they did not appear on a printed map until Ortelius's third Americas map.
- ***New toponyms have been added in California:*** Ortelius adds the name "California". He also adds "Cab. Mendocino", which was discovered by Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo in 1542. "R. de los estrechos" is added.

Ortelius' Atlas and the states of Americae Sive/Novi Orbis

The influence of this and other Ortelius maps stems from the popularity and dominance of his atlas in the European market. In 1570, Ortelius published the first modern atlas; that is, a set of uniform maps with supporting text gathered in book form. Previously, there were other bound map collections, specifically, the Italian Lafreri atlases, but these were sets of maps-not necessarily uniform-selected and bound together on demand.

Theatrum Orbis Terrarum, Ortelius' atlas, outperformed competing atlases from other cartographic luminaries like the Mercator family. Between 1570 and 1612, 31 editions of the atlas were published in seven languages. This map, in its first edition, appeared in the very first 1570 atlas.

States of the Map

The map is known in four editions (involving 3 different copperplates):



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

[The Rarest State] Americae Sive Novi Orbis Nova Descriptio

- First Edition: 1570-1575 (bulge the southern part of South America)
- Second Edition: 1579-1587 (larger ships in the Pacific, the largest sailing west, not east)
- Third Edition: 1587-1612 (bulge in South America removed)
- Fourth Edition: Separately published after 1617 (Strait of Le Maire added, 1587 date removed).
Published using the same copperplate as the Third Edition.

The dating of the final state of the map has ranged from after 1617 to 1641. Given that that the only changes to the map are Le Maire Strait and 2 changes in Brazil, an early date sees most likely.

Rarity

This late state of the map is exceedingly rare. Burden located 7 examples of the map in private and institutional collections.

This is the first example of the map to appear on the market in approximately 15 years (Cartographica Neerlandica, New Acquisitions, April 2006, priced at approximately \$24,450 USD).

Detailed Condition:

Blank verso. A clean example.