



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
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Le Nouveau & Grand Illuminant Flambeau de la Mer, La Quatrieme Partie.

Stock#: 72050
Map Maker: Van Keulen
Date: 1686
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 12.5 x 21 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The Most Advanced Sea Atlas of the Americas When Published

Handsome example of this very rare sea atlas of the Americas and the West Indies, made by Johannes van Keulen, a renowned Dutch chartmaker of the end of the seventeenth century.

The atlas provides coverage of the Eastern Seaboard of the Americas from northern South America and the West Indies to the Canadian Maritimes. The atlas includes, among others, Van Keulen's excellent



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charts of the Gulf of Mexico, Chesapeake Bay, Long Island and the Hudson River. As Philip Burden explains of the latter, "It arguably represents the apogee of Dutch knowledge of the region."

There are also two charts of Florida (the east and west coasts), the former of which includes a detailed treatment of the Bahamas and an exceptional treatment of the islands of the West Indies.

The *Nieuwe Lichtende Zee-Fakkell* (New Shining Sea Torch) was the work that made van Keulen's reputation. Published in five volumes from 1680-1684 (with a sixth volume in 1753), the atlas was reprinted until 1783 and translated into English, Spanish, Italian, and French, as seen with this example. The Americas were featured in the fourth volume.

Editions of the atlas are somewhat difficult to conclusively date, as the final digit on the title page was left blank (i.e., reading "168" in print). The intention was that it be filled in later in pen. In the present example, the date was filled with "0" or "6". As the fourth volume of the *Zee-Fakkell* was not issued until 1684, we know that it must be a 1686. This is apparently a variant of the 1686 recorded by Koeman (Keu 188B), as the title formatting varies slightly and it lacks a dated privilege on the verso of the engraved allegorical title. The charts are second states according to Burden, representing the first time the plates are numbered in the lower-left corner. Burden had previously dated these changes to 1687, though it seems that, with this atlas, we can move the date one year earlier.

Van Keulen's American sea atlas invites comparison to that of Roggeveen, which was first published in 1675 with the second edition coming out in 1680. There are more charts in the Roggeveen, including some wonderful detailed regional treatments not seen in the Van Keulen. And, as it was published in 1675, the Roggeveen can claim the title of the first sea atlas of the Americas. However, it pays for that chronological primacy with cartographic accuracy; in several notable areas (Virginia, for instance; "this is a vastly improved map" Burden 588), the Roggeveen charts are far inferior to those of Van Keulen. Thus, it can be said that the Van Keulen was the most advanced sea atlas of the Americas when it appeared in the 1680s.

Rarity

The Van Keulen American sea atlas does not appear as an individual volume in trade. Two examples of the five-volume French *Zee-Fakkell* have been sold in the past century, with the only 1680s edition (1681-1689) example making 42,900 GBP at Sotheby's in 1985. An example of a 1782 edition was offered at Christie's in 2019 for 30,000 GBP.

Koeman records only one example of the 1686 French edition, in the Biblioteca Nazionale Milano.

List of maps



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1. Pas-kaart. Van West Indien Behelsende soo Delzelffs Vaste Kusten als d'Onder behoorende Eylanden aan de oord Ocean...
2. Pas-kaart. Van de Zee-kusten van Guiana Tusschen Cabo Noord en Rio Amano.
3. Pas-kkart Vande Rivieren Commewini Suriname en Cupanama
4. Pas kaart Vande Kust van Guiana Tusschen R. Cupanama en R: Oronoque
5. Pas kaart Van Rio Oronoque
6. Pas kaart Van de Caribes Tusschen I. Barbados en I.S. Martin
7. Pas kaart van t Eyland S. Iuan De Porto Rico met d'Eylanden daar Beoosten
8. Pas-kaart vande Zee kusten van Venecuela met de Byleggende Eylanden
9. Pas-kaart Van de Zuyd-Kust van Espaniola met de Zee kust van Nuevo Reyne de Granada
10. Pas-kaart Van de Noord Kust van Espaniola met d'Eylanden daar Benoorden
11. Pas-kaart Van de Zee Kusten van Carthagena Tierra Firma, Costa Rica ended Honduras
12. Pas kaart Van de Zuyd kust van Cuba en Van Geheel Yamaica en and're bygeleegen plaatsen
13. Pas-kaart van de Golff de Guanaios Met 't Canaal Tusschen Yucatan en I. Cuba
14. Pas Kaart van de Golff van Mexico
15. Pas kaart van de Boght van Florida
16. Pas Kaart Van Noord Oost Kust van Cuba en d'Oost Kust van Florida
17. Pas Kaart Van I. La Barmuda
18. Pas Kaart Van de Kust van Carolina Tusschen C. Canaveral en C. Henry
19. Pas Kaart Van de Zee Kusten van Virginia Tusschen C. Henry en t Hooge Land van Renselaars Hoek
20. Pas-Kaart Vande Zee-Kusten van Niew Nederland Anders Genaamt Niew York Tusschen Renselaars Hoek en de Staaten Hoek
21. Pas-Kaart Vande Zee Kusten inde Boght van Niew England Tusschen de Staaten Hoek en C. de Sable
22. Pas-kaart, Vande Zee-Kusten, van Terra Nova, Met de Byleggende Zee-Kusten van Francia Nova Canada
23. Pas-kaart Van de Grand Banq By Terra Nuff

Detailed Condition:

Folio. Contemporary vellum. Title, 51, ["Registre"] pages. 23 double-page engraved charts of American subjects (maps 1 and 2 transposed). Some expert restoration of the edges of some of the sheets, most notably to the title page, where some of the imprint line has been reinstated in facsimile. Endpapers renewed.