



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## [17th Century Provenance!] Universalis Tabula Iuxta Ptolemaeum

**Stock#:** 72635  
**Map Maker:** Mercator  
**Date:** 1690 circa  
**Place:** Leiden  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** Good  
**Size:** 18.5 x 13.5 inches  
**Price:** \$ 2,400.00



### Description:

#### ***With the Signature and Bookplate of a 17th Century Scottish Noble Sir Andrew Hume (1676-1730)***

Second state Mercator's map of the World, based upon the writings of Claudius Ptolemy, from a later edition of Gerard Mercator's *Tabulae geographicae Cl. Ptolemaei ad mentem autoris restitutae et emendatae per G. Mercatorem*.

The present example of the map is inscribed on the verso **Andr. Hume 1694** and includes Andrew Hume's signature on the front and back, as well as his bookplate, "True to the End - The Hon.ble Sir Andrew Hume." Andrew Hume held the title Lord Kimmerghame and served as a commissioner in parliament. He was the son of Scottish statesman Patrick Hume, 1st Earl of Marchmont, who also held the title 2nd Baronet and Lord Polwarth. The date suggests that Hume acquired the map when he was 18 years old, at a time when he was probably a young law student.

This is the revised second state of Mercator's 1578 Ptolemaic world map. The border has been re-engraved, and now includes a frieze of allegorical figures representing the four elements of Fire (Zeus), Air (Hera), Water (Neptune), and Earth (Gaia), rather than the strapwork and windhead border of the earlier editions.

The map includes a massive Taprobana (modern day Sri Lanka) in the Indian Ocean. The Indian subcontinent is severely truncated and the Indian Ocean appears to be land locked. Only the northern part



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of Africa is shown with the Nile originating in the twin lakes south of the Equator in the Lunae montes (Mountains of the Moon).

While Mercator is perhaps best known for his modern maps and the map projection which bears his name, one of his life goals was to produce his own version of Ptolemy's *Geographia*. As a second installment of his *Atlas sive Cosmographia* . . ., Mercator published an authentic version of Ptolemy's seminal work, deliberately devoid of the distracting interpretations and misinterpretations by earlier editors intent on improving the Egyptian geographer's seminal work. Mercator's goal was an accurate portrait of Ptolemy's second-century view of the world. To understand the present, the mapmaker believed, one must appreciate the past.

The atlas, first published in 1578, included Ptolemy's twenty-seven maps, carefully restored, handsomely engraved, and supplemented by an index of place names and an enlarged boundary map of the Nile Delta. A total of 8 editions were published between 1578 and 1730.

**Detailed Condition:**

Top left corner restored with facsimile. Some soiling and extraneous creases. Edges worn.