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[The Northern and Southern Skies] Haemisphaerium Stellatum Boreale Cum Aequali Sphaerarum Proportione (and) Haemisphaerium Stellatum Australe Cum Aequali Sphaerarum Proportione

Stock#: 78914
Map Maker: Cellarius
Date: 1660
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 20.5 x 17 inches
Price: \$ 12,500.00



Description:

A View of The Constellations From Beyond Our Universe

Cellarius's stunning projection of the Northern and Southern Hemispheric skies, depicted in a novel format in which the constellations are superimposed over a globe, from Cellarius's *Harmonia Cosmographica*, considered the greatest celestial atlas ever published.

This unusual celestial perspective, which Cellarius termed "scenographic," shows the celestial sky as if seen from the firmament (above the stars themselves), a sort of god's eye view of the constellations, looking toward earth. In the views, each constellation is a mirror image of the way each constellation would be seen from earth. This projection reflects a theory that originated with Petrus Plancius that the stars remained in a sphere-like configuration above the earth and moved in coordination with the earth.

Cellarius produced a total of four scenographic projections. Two of them, presented here, focus on the globe below the stars with slightly transparent constellations, while the other two focus instead on the constellations and show a diminished globe. Here, the Southern Hemisphere projection is centered on the "Terra Australis Incognita," a representation of the unknown great southern continent. The Northern Hemisphere projection shows the European and Asian continents.

The stars in the Southern Hemisphere plate show thirteen newly discovered constellations that can be seen solely from the Southern Hemisphere, which were laid out by Petrus Plancius between 1592 and '98. Many of them are given names that correspond to animals that inhabit regions recently explored by Europeans, such as Pavo (the peacock) and the Pis Indica (apparently the turkey).



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Sphaerarum Proportione**

Next to the scenographs are images of scientists and scholars using telescopes and other instruments meant for studying the stars. As with much of the imagery in the *Harmonia Macrocosmica*, the images in the borders are derived from earlier celestial books. Here the groups of astronomers are copied from two almost identical scenes in Johannes Hevelius's 1647 *Selenographia sive lunae descriptio*.

This is a truly spectacular example of this decorative mapping of the northern and southern skies.

Detailed Condition:

Minor marginal tears, all expertly repaired, with a single one in plate 26 slightly into the image near centerfold.