



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

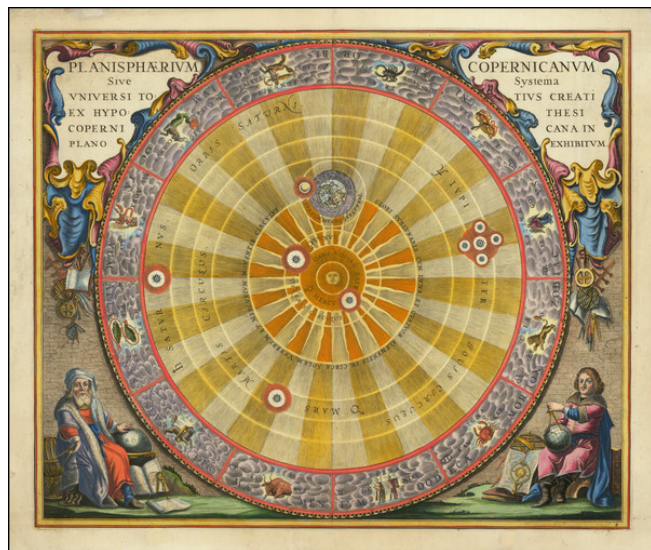
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Planisphaerium Copernicanum Sive Systema Universi Totius Creati Ex Hypothesi Copernicana In Plano Exhibitum

Stock#: 78947
Map Maker: Cellarius
Date: 1661
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 21 x 17.5 inches
Price: On Hold



Description:

The Copernican Solar System.

Andreas Cellarius's striking antique engraving representing the Copernican model of the Solar System. This celestial map was originally published in the *Harmonia Macrocosmica seu Atlas Universalis et Novus*, the greatest celestial atlas ever published and a hallmark of the Dutch age of celestial cartography.

This is the first of the Copernican plates in the *Harmonia*, and it shows a plan of the Solar System akin to what we imagine it to be today. The Sun is at the center, with the planets orbiting around it. Orbiting the Earth is the moon, and Jupiter is shown with its four known moons, which were discovered by Galileo in 1610. The outermost stars, represented by the highly decorative signs of the zodiac, are fixed.

Seated at the bottom left of the image is the progenitor of this model of the universe, Nicolas Copernicus himself, with his hand resting on a globe and a pair of dividers. At the bottom right is the ancient Greek astronomer Aristarchus, who developed the first-known heliocentric model.

The earth is represented via a polar projection, which shows the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Africa. California is shown as an island. A hint of Anian is visible. In all, this is a highly decorative and attractive image, and one of the most important in the *Harmonia*.



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Detailed Condition:

Minor losses in upper left and right margins professionally repaired, and not coming close to the platemark.