



## Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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### **A New & Exact Map of Europe with the Prospects of its Principall Citys After the Latest and Best Observations. | A New Mapp of Europe Divided into its Principall Kingdoms & Countries From ye Best Observations at the Expence of Henry Overton.**

**Stock#:** 78954  
**Map Maker:** Overton  
  
**Date:** 1741  
**Place:** London  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 46 x 36 inches (including text)  
  
**Price:** \$ 11,500.00



#### **Description:**

#### ***Striking English Wall Map of Europe -- Possibly a Unique Survival***

Extremely rare four-sheet wall map of Europe bordered with exquisite city views on the left and right, published in London by Henry Overton in 1741.

Overton's wall map was intended for the English decorative market, an object to be hung in the library or salon of an English noble or wealthy merchant. While such maps were extremely popular in 17th and 18th century material culture in Europe and Britain, the vast majority of these wall maps were published in Paris and Amsterdam, a reflection of the relative nascency of the English map trade, even in the first half of the 18th Century.

Europe is densely filled with details of rivers, provinces, cities, and towns. The map stretches from Northern Africa to Scandinavia, from Lisbon to Moscow. Iceland is in the northwest corner, near the cartouche. The map itself seems to draw on a [four-sheet map of Europe by Philip Lea](#), although it covers a smaller geographic area.

The cartouche includes the British royal coat of arms and a decorated frame with the title. There are compass roses in the Mediterranean and Atlantic, along with several sailing vessels. At bottom is another text cartouche advertising more wall maps by Overton, of the world and of England.



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The importance of urban centers, and the beauty of the European city, is underlined via the views. On the left side are views of London, Rome, Paris, Constantinople, Amsterdam, Lisbon, Seville, and Antwerp. On the right are views of Venice, Stockholm, Frankfurt, Prague, Cologne, Copenhagen, Krakow, and Danzig. Both sets of views stress commerce, architecture, and mobility.

Maps with decorative borders were popular in the seventeenth-century, especially in the Netherlands and France. However, English examples, especially from this late date, are rarely seen.

We are able to date the map thanks to a mention of it on Overton's "A New & Correct Map of the Trading Part of the West Indies", state 2, which is dated March 25, 1741.

#### **Rarity**

The map appears to be very rare. We were unable to locate any other examples in OCLC. The only example offered at auction that we can trace was on sale at Sotheby's on June 27, 1991 (lot 294), re-offered June 25, 1993 (lot 104) and sold for \$10,000.

#### **Detailed Condition:**

Original hand-color. Four sheets joined as one. Some areas of mottled toning in the paper. A small area of soiling off the Bay of Biscay. Old flattened folds. Overall exceptionally well preserved for a map of this age and format.