



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

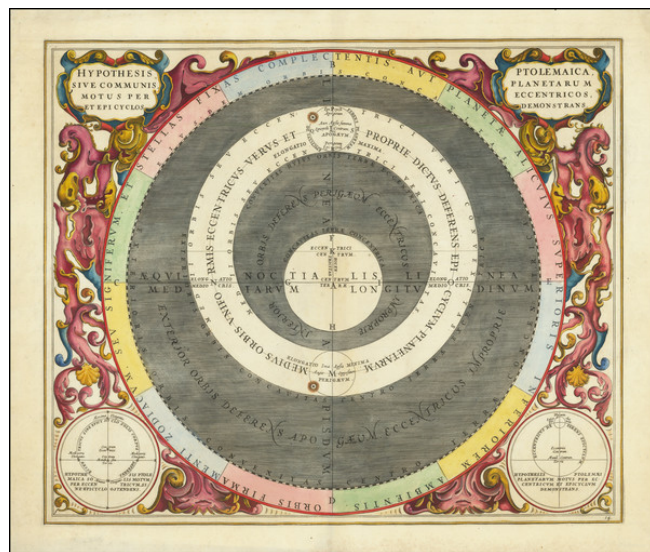
7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Hypothesis Ptolemaica Sive Communis Planetarum

Stock#: 79396
Map Maker: Cellarius
Date: 1661
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 20 x 17 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Nice example of this finely executed map illustrating Claudius Ptolemy's hypothesis regarding planetary movement, showing Earth as the center of the universe and the planetary motions in eccentric and epicyclic orbits.

The central image shows the concept of epicyclic heliocentric orbits, that is, orbits in which a satellite rotates around a fictive point which itself rotates around the earth. This concept was originally introduced by Greek astronomers in order to explain yearly variations in the distance between the Earth and other bodies, as well as variations in the apparent rate of orbit. In the present plate, we see the Earth at the center of the image, surrounded by the Sun's orbit. At the bottom of the map is the position of the sun at perigee, when it is at the closest point from the Earth. At the top of the map is the position of the sun at apogee.

An alternate theory also explains the variations observed by these astronomers, that the orbit of the Sun is actually slightly off-center from the earth. This is shown in the bottom left corner, and contrasted with a simple portrayal of the central image in the lower right.

Andreas Cellarius was born in 1596 in Neuhausen and educated in Heidelberg. He emigrated to Holland in the early 17th Century and in 1637 moved to Hoorn, where he became the rector of the Latin School. Cellarius' best known work is his *Harmonia Macrocosmica*, first issued in 1660 by Jan Jansson, as a supplement to Jansson's *Atlas Novus*. The work consists of a series of Celestial Charts begun by Cellarius in 1647, and intended as part of a two volume treatise on cosmography, which was never issued.



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Cellarius' charts are the most sought after of celestial charts, blending the striking imagery of the golden age of Dutch Cartography with contemporary scientific knowledge. The present examples come from the Valk & Schenk edition of Cellarius' atlas, which is unchanged from the 1661 edition. The 1660 and 1661 editions can be distinguished by the inclusion of a plate number in the lower right corner of the 1661 edition. The Valk & Schenk edition can be distinguished by the addition of the printer's name (Valk & Schenk) in the titles of the maps.

Detailed Condition: