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(Rare Early State) Nova Totius Terrarum Orbis Geographica Ac Hydrographica Tabula auct Gul Janssonio . . . 1606

Stock#: 80054
Map Maker: Blaeu
Date: 1617
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 21.5 x 16 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The rare early state of Guillaume Blaeu's classic world map on Mercator's projection, first issued in 1606.

The present state of the map includes the date of 1606 and the name used by Blaeu in his earliest years, Gul(laume) Janssonius. The inclusion of the Straits of Le Maire dates this map to circa 1617, and a matching map of Europe was issued with that date.

One of the finest and most famous world maps to appear in an atlas during the Golden Age of Dutch cartography. The map became Blaeu's standard world map in his atlases until 1662 when he added a double hemisphere map of the world and later a double hemisphere polar projection, which was apparently not issued during his lifetime but was later issued by Valck.

The map's rectangular shape and the regular grid of latitude and longitude lines reflect Blaeu's use of Gerard Mercator's projection which Mercator first introduced in 1569. Blaeu's map is essentially a reduced-size version of his wall map of 1605, with basically identical geographical information. As is characteristic of the Mercator projection, the sizes and shapes of landmasses in the polar regions are greatly exaggerated. The map is now famous for its elaborate ornamentation, embellished with ships, sea monsters, compass roses, and ornate border panels. Across the top are allegorical representations of the sun and moon and the five known planets - Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn. The four basic elements, Fire, Air, Water, and Land, are illustrated on the left panel, while the four seasons are depicted on the right panel. The seven wonders of the ancient world are displayed in the bottom panels.



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The map incorporates some of the classic early 17th Century cartographic misconceptions, including the elongated NW Coast of America, massive southern hemisphere with narrow strait between it and South America, incomplete New Guinea attached to large southern continent, etc.

States of the Map:

The present example is state 3 of the map. The states can be determined as follows:

- State 1. The image does *not* include the signature "Ja. vanden Ende sculpsit." to the lower left of the South Pole projection. Shirley says "possibly a proof".
- State 2. With signature of Josua van den Ende: "Ja. vanden Ende sculpsit"
- State 3. As state 2, but *Terra del Fuego* is now an island and *Fretum le Maire* has been added. Probably issued in 1617, as a companion map of Europe bears this date.
- State 4: "Gul. Jansonius 1606" removed and replaced with "Guil. Blaeuw". "Gulielmus Janssonius" replaced with "Gulielmus Blaeuw"
- State 5: Confusingly, this final state, unrecorded by Shirley, adds back the connection between *Terra del Fuego* and the Southern Continent and some of the coastline erased in the third state.

Rarity

The early 3 states of the map are very rare - "Copies of states 1-3 are rare" (Shirley 255). This is the first example we have ever seen on the market.

Detailed Condition: