



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

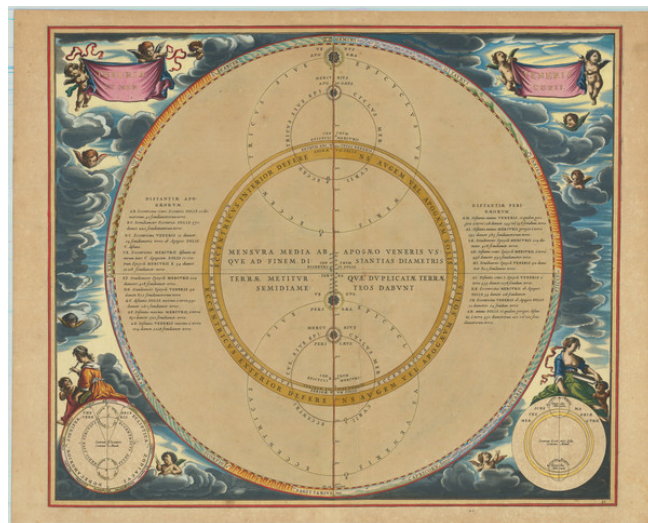
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Theoria Veneris Et Mercurii [Exceptional original hand-color with highlights in gold]

Stock#: 81865
Map Maker: Cellarius
Date: 1661
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 20 x 17 inches
Price: \$ 3,500.00



Description:

Exceptional original hand-coloring and heightening in gold. The best extant example.

Finely executed celestial model showing the movements of Venus and Mercury, demonstrating how the Tychonic geoheliocentric view works. This attractive copperplate engraving originally appeared in Andreas Cellarius's *Harmonia Macrocosmica*.

The diagram shows how the orbits of Venus and Mercury are centered about the Sun, but how the Sun itself orbits around the Earth. Brahe believed that the Earth must be stationary because it was so heavy, but agreed with the many observations that showed that the planets did not revolve around the Sun. This is contradictory to what we now know to be the case, however, due to the relative nature of observation, this theory is hard to disprove. In fact, when ignoring any objects outside the Solar System, this theory is equivalent to a heliocentric theory under a coordinate transformation.

It was also recognized that the orbit of the Sun relative to the Earth was not purely circular, which is shown. The difference in the distance between Mercury and Venus and the Earth at apogee and perigee is noted. The Solar System is divided into regions that show when the inner planets appear to the west of the setting Sun, and when they appear to the east.

The map includes ample decorative imagery, including two title cartouches and various celestial figures. Two inset diagrams summarize the main diagram, and the figures sat atop them are taken to represent the muses of Astronomy and Mathematics.



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Cellarius's charts are the most sought-after of celestial charts, blending the striking imagery of the golden age of Dutch cartography with contemporary scientific knowledge.

A Note on Color and Relative Value

In nice original or later hand-coloring, we have recently sold this map for around \$1,000; thus, this example's price of \$3,500 might appear aggressive. However, we believe that this map *truly* is that much better than any other example out there, and we think you will agree.

This example's hand-coloring triumphs extend beyond the careful attention to the contrast of the clouds and their subtle yellow background, to the shading of the putti, the extensive highlighting in gold, and most importantly, the additional hand-drawn elaborate zodiac border around the central diagram. The elemental illustrations in this border completely reinvent the image and elevate this beyond any other Cellarius we have seen.

While we have handled many beautiful Cellarius celestial charts in the past, and have seen a few in the trade with exquisite hand-coloring, none has had that key border embellishment, which we take to be indicative of the highest level of late-17th-century Dutch hand-coloring. With its red-and-yellow border, careful gold highlighting, and astoundingly detailed hand-coloring, this may well be the work of Dirk Janszoon Van Santen, the most famous of the Golden Age Dutch colorists.

We bought this map in 2022 along with four other related charts from Cellarius's *Harmonia Macrocosmica seu Atlas Universalis et Novus*.

Detailed Condition:

The finest extant example. Copperplate engraving on laid paper. Exceptional original hand-coloring in full with extensive extra-illustrations by the colorist (namely the zodiac borders, which are rendered with detailed element-related embellishments) and profuse heightening with gold. Very faint even paper toning.