



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## Belgii Veteris Typus. . .

**Stock#:** 84014  
**Map Maker:** Ortelius  
**Date:** 1595 or later  
**Place:** Antwerp  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 19 x 15 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

Nice example of Ortelius' map of the Low Countries, from his *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, the first modern atlas of the world.

Four ornate cartouches and a compass rose. Extends to the English Channel and part of Britain. Part of Germany is to the east.

This plate, first issued in 1595, replaced Ortelius' previous "Belgii Veteris Typus".

According to the title cartouche, place names in all uppercase letters are names of antiquity, of later times with regular capitalization, not from antiquity in lowercase cursive, and modern names in a more gothic-type lower case cursive. "Namurcum", in cursive, is Namur, a townname with Celtic roots. Oudenaerde (Oudenaarde), a name with Dutch origins, is in the gothic-type script.

### Theatrum Orbis Terrarum

The present map comes from Abraham Ortelius's *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* (or *Theater of the World*), which is widely considered to be the first true modern atlas. The *Theatrum* was the best available summary of 16th-century cartographic knowledge, covering much of the exploration of the world in the century following the discovery of America.

The atlas was first published in 1570 in Antwerp, and it was published consistently until 1612. Recent research has unearthed examples of the atlas with maps dated to 1640.



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**Belgii Veteris Typus. . .**

Ortelius was the artist of all of the maps; he drew them by hand, and those drawings were interpreted into prints by his engravers Frans Hogenberg, Ambrosius Arsenius, and Ferdinand Arsenius.

The broad appeal of the *Theatrum* saw demand from many consumers who preferred to read the atlas in their local language. Thus, in addition to Latin, the book was published with text in Dutch, French, German, Italian, Spanish, and English.

After Ortelius's death in 1598, the copper plates for his atlas passed to his heirs. They, in turn, sold the collection to Jan Baptist Vrients (1522-1612) in 1601. Vrients added new maps and published the atlas until his death in 1612. Vrients's widow then sold the plates to the Moretus brothers, who were the successors of Christoffel Plantin.

**Detailed Condition:**

No text on verso. Minor foxing.