



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

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[L'Atlas, ou Méditations cosmographiques de la fabrique du monde et figure d'iceluy, commencé en latin par le très docte Gérard Mercator; without the title pastedown, therefore:] Atlas Sive Cosmographicae Meditationes de Fabrica Mundi et Fabricati Figura.

Stock#: 92167
Map Maker: Mercator / Hondius / Claesz
Date: 1609
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 13 x 18.5 inches Size of book
Price: SOLD



Description:

The First Atlas To Be So-Named.

The First Translation of the Mercator-Hondius Atlas into a Vernacular Language.

A handsome example of one of the greatest cartographic works of the 17th century, the so-called Mercator-Hondius *Atlas*.

This is a rare early edition from the second generation of Mercator's *magnum opus*, in which Rumold and Gerard Mercator's work was expanded upon by Cornelis Claesz and Jodocus Hondius. At this crucial point in the atlas's history, it evolved from an idealist's project into a commercial enterprise from which the great multi-volume Dutch atlases of the 17th century sprang forth.

The atlas includes some of the most significant maps of its time. Mercator's double-hemisphere world map, the great mapmaker's only obtainable world map, shows the definitive state of cartographic progress in the latest 16th and earliest 17th centuries. The polar map - the first ever to focus on the Arctic region - is the defining representation of the four northern islands. This edition of the map is updated with information from the Barentsz voyage to Novaya Zembla (likely by way of the [Barentsz map](#)). Numerous additional important maps appear throughout the atlas, with notable maps of the Americas, Asia, and Africa.



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A History of the Mercator-Hondius Atlases

The Mercator, and later Mercator-Hondius, atlas is noted for popularizing the use of the term "Atlas" to refer to a formal compilation of maps. Mercator chose the word, he wrote:

"to honor the Titan, Atlas, King of Mauritania, a learned philosopher, mathematician, and astronomer."

Mercator began work on this project fairly late in life, at the age of 51, when Duke William IV of Cleve retained him as his cosmographer. Mercator initially hoped to write the text, draw the maps, and engrave the plates for what was to be a five-book cosmography. The first of these books was to cover creation; the second the heavens; the third geography; the fourth history; and the fifth chronology. Gerard Mercator managed to complete the section on France, the Low Countries, and Germany, as well as the part on Italy, the Balkans, and Greece, before his death on December 2, 1594. After that point, the work was taken up by his son Rumold Mercator.

Around 1604, the plates for the atlas were acquired by Jodocus Hondius, the great patriarch of the Hondius mapmaking dynasty. The atlas continued to be published by the Hondius family before being taken over by the Jansson branch of descendants. The first Mercator-Hondius edition was produced in 1606 in Amsterdam.

Edition

This is the 1609 French-language edition of the Mercator-Hondius *Atlas Sive Cosmographicae*. The Latin title page is dated 1609 but without the French-language pastedown usually present in this edition of the *Atlas*.

The book's collation conforms to that of the French edition, with 147 engraved maps including one map not present in the 1607-08 Latin edition, that of *Rugen*.

The book was translated from the Latin 1607 edition by Lancelot de Voysin, seigneur de la Popelinière.

Contents

1. Orbis Terrae Compendiosa Descriptio



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2. Europa, ad magnae Europae. . .
3. Nova Europae Descriptio Auctore Iodoco Hondio
4. Africa Ex magna orbis. . .
5. Asia ex magna orbis terre descriptione Gerardi Mercatoris
6. America sive India Nova.
7. Septentrionalium Terrarum descriptio.
8. Islandia.
9. Anglia, Scotia, et Hibernia.
10. Irlandiae regnum.
11. Udrone Irlandiae in Catherlagh Bromia.
12. [Northern Ireland] [Pasted over]
13. Ultoniae Orientalis Pars.
14. Irlandiae Regnum.
15. Scotia Regnum.
16. [Scotiae Regnum Southern Half]
17. Scotiae Regnum
18. Anglia Regnum
19. Northumbria, Cumberlandia, et Dunelmensis Episcopatus.
20. Westmorlandia, Lancastria, Cestria, Caernarvan, Denbigh, Flint. . .
21. Cambriae Typus auctore Humeredo Lhuydo.
22. Cornubia, Devoniam, Somersetus, Dorcestria, Wiltonia. . .
23. Eboracum, Lincolniam, Derbia, Staffordia, Notinghamia. . .
24. Warwicum, Northamtomia, Huntingodnia, Cantabridgia, Suffolcia, Oxonium. . .
25. Anglesey [with] Wight Vectis olim [with] Garnesay [with] Iarsay
26. Suecia et Norvegia
27. Daniae Regnu
28. Iutia Septentrionalis.
29. Holsatia Ducatus.
30. Fionia
31. Prussia
32. Livonia
33. Russia cum confinijs.
34. Lithuania.
35. Transylvania



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36. Taurica Chersonesus.
37. Hispaniae Nova Descriptio, de Integro Multis Inlocis, Secundum Hydrographicas, Desc, Emendata.
38. Portugalliae que olim Lusitania. . .
39. Legionis, Biscaiae et Guipiscoae Typus
40. Castiliae Veteris et Novae Descriptio
41. Andaluziae Nova Descript.
42. Regni Valentiae Typus
43. Arragonia et Catalonia
44. Gallia
45. Britannia & Normandia cum consinib regionibus
46. Totius Lemovici et Consinium provinciarum quantum. . .
47. Aquitania australis Regnu Arelatense cum confinijis
48. Provinciae Regionis Galliae, vera exactissimae descriptio.
49. France Picardie Champagne
50. L'Isle de France Pariesis Agri Descriptio.
51. Bolonia & Guines Comitatus [Single sheet]
52. Aniou
53. Berry ducatus
54. Poictou sive Pictatuiae descriptio
55. Lotharingia Ducatus
56. [Southern Lorraine]
57. Burgundia Ducatus.
58. [Burgundy]
59. Helvetia cum finitimis regionibus confederatis.
60. [Canton of Zurich]
61. Das Wiflisgur Gergov
62. Chorographica Tabula Lacus Lemanni. . .
63. [Argow]
64. Belgii inferioris. . .
65. Flandria Comit.
66. Habes hic Novam & accuratissimam descriptionem tractus illius Flandriae. . .
67. [Brabant, Iuliers et Cleve]
68. Hollandt comitatus Utrecht episcop.
69. Zelandia Comitatus



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- 70. Geldria et Transysvlana
- 71. Artesia Comit.
- 72. Hannonia Namurcum Comitatus
- 73. Trier & Lutzenburg
- 74. Germania
- 75. Frisia occidentalis
- 76. Emden & Oldenborch Comit.
- 77. Westfali Cum Dioecesi Bremensi.
- 78. [Westphalia]
- 79. Berghe Ducatus Marck Comitatus et Coloniensis Diocesis
- 80. Leodiensis Diocesis Typus.
- 81. Murs Comitatus [with] Regionum Urbium et fluminum que. . .
- 82. Waldeck
- 83. Palatinatus Rheni.
- 84. Wirtenberg Ducatus
- 85. Alsatia inferior
- 86. Alsatia superior cu Suntgoia & Brisgoia.
- 87. Saxonia Inferior et Meklenborg Duc.
- 88. Braunswyck & Meydburg cum ceteris adiacentibus
- 89. Hassia landtgraviatus
- 90. Thuringia
- 91. Frankenlandt Francia orientalis
- 92. Bavaria Ducatus
- 93. Palatinatus Bavariae
- 94. Saxoniae superioris Lusatiae Misniaeque Descriptio
- 95. Marca Brandenburgensis & Pomerania
- 96. Nova Famigerabilis Insulae Ac Ducatus Rugiae
- 97. Bohemia
- 98. Moravia
- 99. Austria archiducatus
- 100. Saltzburg archiepiscopatus cum ducatu Carinthiae
- 101. Polonia et Silesia
- 102. Hungaria
- 103. Italia



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104. Lombardiae Alpestris pars occidentalis cum Valesia
105. Tarvisina Marchia et Tirolis Comitatus
106. Pedemontana regio cum Genvensium territorio & Montisferati
107. Romandiola cum Parmensi Ducatu.
108. Brescia Episcopatus Moediolanu Ducatus
109. Veronae Vicentiae et Patavii Ditiones
110. Forum Iulium, Karstia, Carniola, Histria et Windorum Marchia.
111. Tuscia
112. Marchia Anconitana cum Spoletano Ducatu
113. Latium nunc Campagna di Roma.
114. Abruzzo et Terra di Lavoro.
115. Puglia Piana, Terra di Barri, Terra di Otranto, Calabria et Basilicata.
116. Corsica [with] Sardinia
117. Siciliae Regnum.
118. Stiria
119. Sclavonia Croatia, Bosnia cum Dalmatiae Parte.
120. Walachia Servia, Bulgaria, Romania.
121. Graecia
122. Macedonia Epirus et Archaia.
123. Morea olim Peloponnesus
124. Candia cum Insulis aliquot circa Graeciam
125. Nova Africae Tabula
126. Barbaria
127. Fessae et Marocchi Regna
128. Abissinorum Sive Pretiosi Joannis Imperiu.
129. Guineae Nova Descriptio
130. Asiae Nova Descriptio Auctore Jodoco Hondio
131. Turcici Imperii Imago.
132. Terra Sancta quae in Sacris Terra Promissionis ol Palestina
133. Natoliae Sive Asia Minor
134. Cyprus Ins.
135. Persici vel Sophorum Regni Typus
136. Tartaria
137. China



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- 138. India Orientalis
- 139. Insulae Indiae Orientalis Praecipuae.
- 140. Iaponia
- 141. Ins. Ceilan
- 142. America
- 143. Hispaniae Novae Nova Descriptio
- 144. Virginiae item et Floridae Americae Provinciarum, nova Descriptio.
- 145. Cuba Insula
- 146. America Meridionalis
- 147. Exquisita & Magno aliquot mensium periculo lustrata etiam resecta Freti Magellanica Facies.

Provenance

Admiralty Office Library, their stamp on the title and penultimate page of the appendix.

Detailed Condition:

Folio. 19th-century three-quarters vellum with marbled boards. Early ink manuscript to spine "Mercatoris | Atlas | 1609." [8]; 1-358 (with 67-68 and 135-136 duplicated, bringing the total to 362); [35]. 146 double- and 1 single-page engraved map (complete), with five engraved title pages. Admiralty Library stamp to title and penultimate leaf. (Minor rubbing and bumping; middle leaf of A and C signatures fully loose. Corner of [*2] and Xxxxx torn away. Some internal toning and small closed tears).