



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

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**Globe Plat ou Mappe-Monde d'une Projection nouvelle Dediee et Presentee a S.A.S. Le
Pce. de Conte.**

Stock#: brm3238
Map Maker: Duplessis
Date: 1769 -1770
Place: Paris
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 13.5 x 20.25 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare 18th-century paper instrument with an unusual world map on a “flat earth” projection.

A rare and unusual instrument, featuring a volvelle with a distinctive “flat earth” projection. One of only three examples located.

The instrument consists of a large engraved diagram mounted on a heavy pasteboard backing, as issued. The central feature of the diagram is a map of the world projected on a single hemisphere, 11 ¾” in diameter. Surrounding the map are several concentric circles, including a circle of climates, names of the inhabitants of the various terrestrial latitudes, climatic zones, and notes on the movement of the sun. The



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world map and its concentric borders have been cut out, mounted on a pasteboard disk, and attached to the backing board by a central copper pin, thus allowing it to rotate 360°. The volvelle is surrounded by an outer engraved circle, numbered for a 24-hour clock, indicating the time for all parts of the world at noon in Paris. By revolving the volvelle the user could adjust the calculation for any time in Paris.

At the foot of the map is a diagram of the zodiac of the ecliptic for the year, designed, *inter alia*, to show the time of sunset and the seasons the year.

The instrument is not dated, but Duplessis advertised it in the weekly *L'Avantcoureur* on May 21, 1770:

This new Globe not only contains the benefits of ordinary terrestrial globes, but it replaces[?] the old & new world, united in one point of view. This instrument also has various uses, indicated by a little treatise, to which is added an abbreviated picture of the population of the world, a curious and interesting piece for history...

The advert goes on to mention that the *Globe Plat* could be had in a variety of formats, from a simple uncolored sheet (2 livres) to a deluxe version in a gilt frame (15 livres).

The "little treatise" referred to in the advert was a small volume titled "Traité du globe-plat, ou mappe-monde d'une projection nouvelle..." The pamphlet would no doubt shed further light on the *Globe Plat*, but copies are held only at the Bibliotheque nationale de France and the Landesbibliothek Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, it has not been digitized, and does not appear to be available for sale anywhere in the world.

Rarity

We locate two other holdings worldwide (Bibliotheque Nationale de France and the National Library of Australia). The former was acquired only in 2004 (from Le Bail-Weissert), the latter in 2006.

Detailed Condition:

Engraved diagram, 20 ¼"h x 13 ½"w at neat line plus margins, with a central world map volvelle, 11 ¾" in diameter, rotating on a copper pin. The whole mounted on a heavy pasteboard backing, the verso of which features a small slot with a tab for rotating the volvelle. Original color retouched to style, based on National Library of Australia example. Minor residual soiling and discoloration after cleaning, corners slightly bumped.