



## Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard  
La Jolla, CA 92037

[www.raremaps.com](http://www.raremaps.com)

(858) 551-8500  
[blr@raremaps.com](mailto:blr@raremaps.com)

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### (Two-Volume World Atlas) *Mercurio Geografico overo Guida Geografica in Tutte Parti Del Mondo*

**Stock#:** 88451  
**Map Maker:** Rossi  
**Date:** 1697 - 1703 circa  
**Place:** Rome  
**Color:** Outline Color  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 19 x 24.25 inches  
**Price:** \$ 29,500.00



#### Description:

#### *Magnificent Two Volume G. G. Rossi World Atlas Bound In-Plano*

Rossi's *Mercurio Geografico* was the first folio atlas of the World published in Italy in the 17th century. It is arguably the first modern Italian atlas of the world published in Italy. Its predecessors were all either editions of Ptolemy's *Geography* or Lafreri-style composite atlases, made to order. Beginning in the late 1660s, Rossi's atlas would grow over the successive decades, becoming the source for the multi-sheet maps of Giacomo Cantelli da Vignola, one of Italy's most important mapmakers of the late 17th century.

Apart from some maps signed by French cartographers Michael Antoine Baudrand, Guillaume Sanson, Nicholas Sanson, and Augustin Lubin, most of the papers are by Cantelli. Among the engravers are the names of Jean Lhuillier, Francesco Donia, Vincenzo Mariotti, and others. The Cantelli-Rossi atlas had great success and continued to be published, even after the death of Cantelli, until the eighteenth century, with the addition of a second part and numerous new maps

The present atlas, with a total complement of 130 maps, reflects Rossi's continuing effort to expand the work. The atlas begins with Brunacci's highly sought-after double hemisphere celestial map and ends with a set of 12 newly published maps of European regions, available in 1690, but not yet incorporated into a revised catalog of maps. The dated maps mostly range from 1669 to 1697, with two outliers dated 1702 (vol. 1) and 1703 (in vol. 2).

While some of Rossi's maps are drawn from French Royal Geographer Nicolas Sanson, the vast majority of the maps are the original works of Giacomo Cantelli da Vignola, and reflect a unique engraving style.

The map of North America (here dated 1687) is in what Burden describes as the second state, unchanged



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cartographically from the first state dated 1677. While it's largely based on Guillaume Sanson's map of 1669, which in turn was based on his father Nicolas Sanson's wall map of 1666, the Rossi map adds Iceland, the British Isles, and the recurrence of C[abo] Blanco on the northern California coast. California is shown as an island in the FoXe form of 1635.

The atlas includes a number of multi-sheet maps, several of which include magnificent large cartouches. There is considerable variation in the contents of this atlas, which includes maps by or after Cantelli da Vignola, the Sansons, and others, as is normally the case. Rossi atlases can vary widely in their total content, with editions ranging from about 50 maps to over well 100 maps by the beginning of the 18th century, by which time the maps of other makers are often found in the atlas.

The last example of a "pure" Cantelli-Rossi atlas to appear at auction with more than 100 maps was in 2006, with examples typically ranging from 40-68 maps.

**Detailed Condition:**

Folio. Two volumes. Bound in-plano. Antique-style modern red morocco leather and marbled boards, raised spine bands (610 x 475 mm). Some minor scuffing to leather on spine extremities. Volume 1: half-title, engraved allegorical title page and 71 maps (on 87 map sheets) (includes a number of 2-sheet and 3-sheet maps). Volume 2: title page and 59 maps (on 71 sheets). For a grand total of 130 maps. Minor old outline damp stain to fore edge margin of half title (printing unaffected) in vol. 1. Some marginal foxing on title page of vol. 1. One of the single-sheet maps nearly detached from book block in volume 1. Occasional light marginal soiling and less frequently a spot stain or light marginal outline damp stain to the map sheets, but overall condition of the maps is excellent. Wonderfully sharp impressions.