



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## [Geocentric Model of the Universe] *Introductio ad cosmographiam*

**Stock#:** 50121

**Map Maker:** Blaeu

**Date:** 1650 circa

**Place:** Amsterdam

**Color:** Hand Colored

**Condition:** VG+

**Size:** 5 x 5 inches

**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

Striking example of a Geocentric model of the Universe, which appeared in an edition of Blaeu's *Atlas Maior*.

The geocentric model is a description of the universe with the Earth at the center. Under the geocentric model, the Sun, Moon, stars, and planets all circled Earth. The geocentric model served as the predominant description of the universe in many ancient civilizations, such as those of Aristotle and



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Ptolemy.

Two observations supported the idea that the Earth was the center of the Universe. First, the Sun appears to revolve around the Earth once per day. While the Moon and the planets have their own motions, they also appear to revolve around the Earth about once per day. The stars appeared to be on a celestial sphere, rotating once each day along an axis through the north and south geographic poles of the Earth. Second, the Earth does not seem to move from the perspective of an Earth-bound observer; it appears to be solid, stable, and unmoving.

The ancient Greeks believed that the motions of the planets were circular and not elliptical, a view that was not challenged in Western culture until the 17th century through the synthesis of theories by Copernicus and Kepler.

The astronomical predictions of Ptolemy's geocentric model were used to prepare astrological and astronomical charts for over 1500 years. The geocentric model was the primary western model of the Universe until the late 16th century, when it was gradually superseded by the Heliocentric model of Copernicus, Galileo and Kepler.

### **Detailed Condition:**

Old Color