



# 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)

## (The Christian Celestial Hemispheres) *Coeli Stellati Christiani Haemisphaerium Posterius* [with:] *Coeli Stellati Christiani Haemisphaerium Prius*

**Stock#:** 78915  
**Map Maker:** Cellarius  
**Date:** 1661  
**Place:** Amsterdam  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 20.5 x 17.5 inches (each sheet)  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

#### *The Christian Night Sky, Northern and Southern Hemispheres.*

Striking example of the hemispheric images of the Christian constellations based upon the work of 17th Century Astronomer Julius Schiller, which were engraved for Andreas Cellarius's remarkable *Harmonia Macroscimica*, the greatest celestial atlas ever published.

The plates show the night sky, in a full representation that contains all the stars that can be seen from any point on earth, at any time of the year. The first plate, *Coelistellati Christiani Haemisphaerium Posterius*, shows the sky as seen on the Spring equinox, and the second plate, *Coelistellati Christiani Haemisphaerium Prius*, shows the sky as seen on the Fall equinox. Each plate contains two smaller representations of the sky as seen from the poles on this equinox.

This celestial chart presents the constellations according to Christian symbolism. The view of the constellations is based on the work of the early 17th-century astronomer, Julius Schiller, who sought to replace the traditional pagan symbols with ones derived from Judeo-Christian sources. Schiller replaced the zodiacal constellations with the twelve apostles, the constellations north of the zodiac by figures from the New Testament and the constellations south of the zodiac by figures from the Old Testament.

Instead of being projected from the pole, the two maps are centered on the vernal equinox and the ecliptic bisects the map instead of encircling it. The following major constellations are shown as follows:

- Gemini = James (Jacobus), son of Zebedee
- Cancer = St. John
- Leo = St. Thomas



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**(The Christian Celestial Hemispheres) Coeli Stellati Christiani Haemisphaerium  
Posterius [with:] Coeli Stellati Christiani Haemisphaerium Prius**

- Virgo = St. James (Jacobus) the Less
- Libra = St. Phillip
- Scorpio = St. Bartholomew
- Centauri = Abraham and Isaac
- The Argonaut = Noah's Ark
- Canis Minor = King David

The *Harmonia Macrocosmica* of Andreas Cellarius is widely regarded as the most beautiful and finely executed celestial atlas ever published. The atlas appeared in two early editions of 1660 and 1661, and was also intended as part of Jansson's Atlas Maior. Schenk & Valk re-issued the atlas in 1708, using the original Cellarius plates, without alteration, except for the addition of their names in the title cartouche.

**Detailed Condition:**

Expertly repaired loss in the upper blank margin of plate 22.