



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

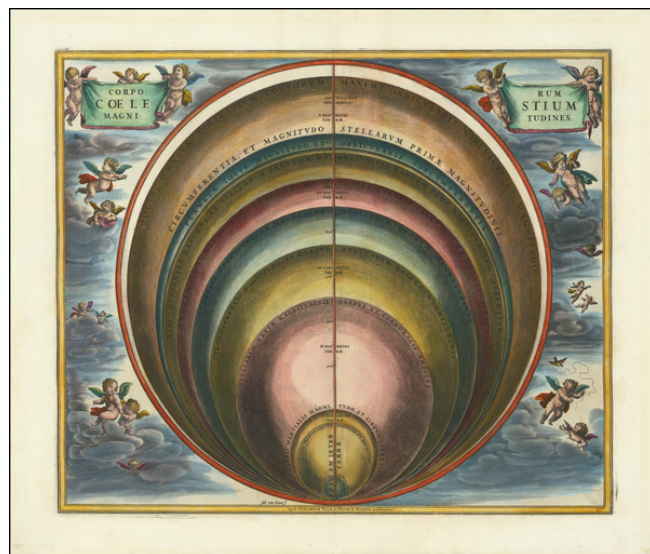
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[Calculating Sizes of Celestial Bodies] *Corporum Coelestium Magnitudines*

Stock#: 90011
Map Maker: Cellarius / Valk & Schenk
Date: 1708
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 20.5 x 17 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Cellarius's Diagram of the Sizes of Celestial Bodies.

Striking celestial map from an early edition of Andreas Cellarius' *Harmonia Macrocosmica*, considered to be the finest atlas ever published. This map was engraved by the Dutch master engraver Johannes van Loon.

This map advertises itself as a plate showing the "magnitude" of celestial bodies and shows the diameters of a great many objects, including the Moon, stars of various magnitudes, the Earth, the planets, and the Sun. Some of these sizes are very precise, for example the Earth is shown at around 1700 German miles, which translates to about 7970 imperial miles--not far from the true value of 7917. The Moon, again, is relatively correctly shown at about a sixth of the Earth's size (instead of a seventh). The accuracy falls away with the rest of the image: Jupiter and Saturn are nearly the same size, Mars is larger than Earth, and Venus is the size of the Moon. An attempt at calculating the sizes of the extrasolar stars is even made (except for the brightest stars, they are smaller than Saturn).

Cellarius's plates are renowned for being the best images of the sky produced during the Dutch Golden Age of Cartography.

Detailed Condition: