



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

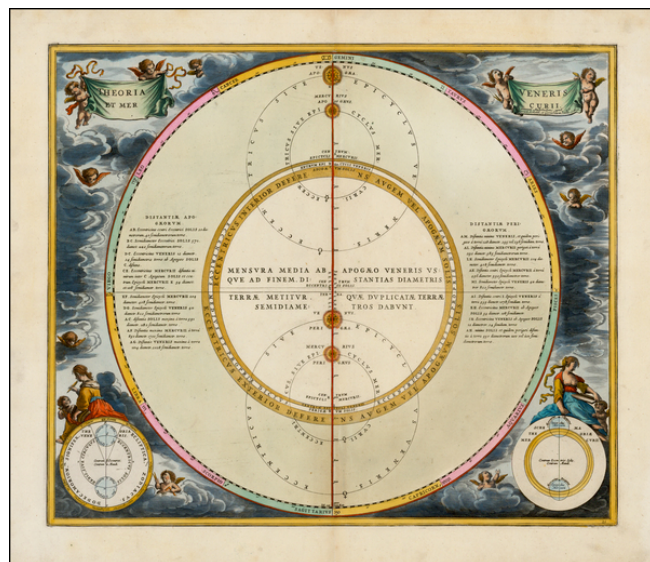
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Theoria Veneris Et Mercurii

Stock#: 41417
Map Maker: Cellarius
Date: 1660 (1708)
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 20 x 17 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Finely executed celestial model showing the movements of Venus and Mercury, demonstrating how the Tychonic geoheliocentric view works. This attractive copperplate engraving originally appeared in Andreas Cellarius's *Harmonia Macrocosmica*.

The diagram shows how the orbits of Venus and Mercury are centered about the Sun, but how the Sun itself orbits around the Earth. Brahe believed that the Earth must be stationary because it was so heavy, but agreed with the many observations that showed that the planets did not revolve around the Sun. This is contradictory to what we now know to be the case, however, due to the relative nature of observation, this theory is hard to disprove. In fact, when ignoring any objects outside the Solar System, this theory is equivalent to a heliocentric theory under a coordinate transformation.

It was also recognized that the orbit of the Sun relative to the Earth was not purely circular, which is shown. The difference in the distance between Mercury and Venus and the Earth at apogee and perigee is noted. The Solar System is divided into regions that show when the inner planets appear to the west of the setting Sun, and when they appear to the east.

The map includes ample decorative imagery, including two title cartouches and various celestial figures. Two inset diagrams summarize the main diagram, and the figures sat atop them are taken to represent the muses of Astronomy and Mathematics.

Cellarius's charts are the most sought-after of celestial charts, blending the striking imagery of the golden



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age of Dutch cartography with contemporary scientific knowledge.

Detailed Condition:

Old color, recently refreshed.