



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

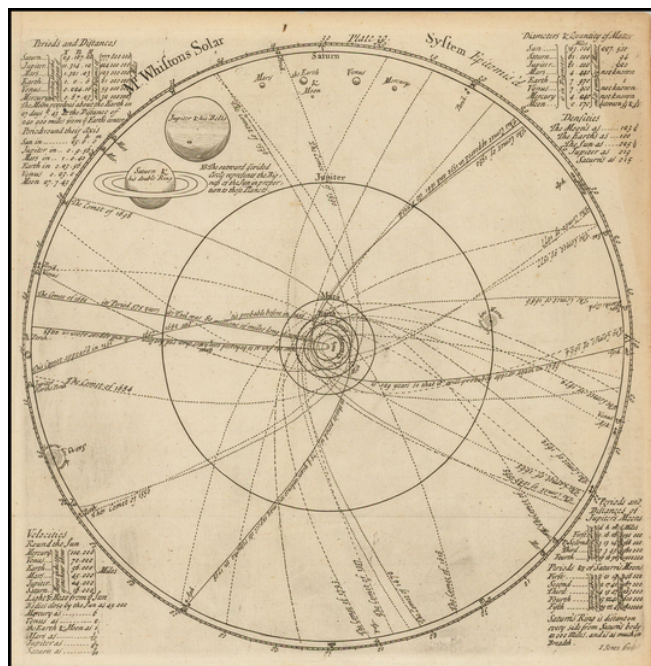
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Mr. Whiston's Solar System Epitomis'd

Stock#: 46851
Map Maker: Senex / Whiston
Date: 1733
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 9.5 x 10.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine illustration of the model of the solar system, based upon a map first prepared by William Whiston in 1712 and published by John Senex in London.

The map illustrates the orbits of the comets known to Edmund Halley and Whiston at the beginning of the 18th Century, based upon Newton's model. Each comet is illustrated by its orbit with information about its modern appearances, distances from the sun, etc.. A number of Newton's teachings are annotated within the printed image and additional information appears outside the solar hemisphere.

William Whiston was an English theologian, historian, and mathematician, who succeeded Isaac Newton as Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at the University of Cambridge. His *A New Theory of the Earth from its Original to the Consummation of All Things* (1696), articulated Whiston's belief that the global flood of Noah had been caused by a comet, a position which won him praise from Newton. Whiston and Halley were both advocates for the periodicity of comets, although Whiston also believed that comets were responsible for past catastrophes in earth's history.

The map was first prepared and issued separately by Whiston in 1712, likely to illustrate his public lectures on Newton's astronomical teachings, and thereafter copied and modified for most of the 18th Century. As noted by Whiston in his *Memoirs* (p. 191);



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About the same year, 1712, I published A Scheme of the Solar System, with the orbits of 21 comets 5 in a large meet of paper, engraved on copper, by Mr. Senex. Price 2 s. 6 d. Which Scheme has been of great reputation and advantage among the curious ever since.

The present example is a reduced and slightly simplified version of Whiston's original, which appeared in J.T. Desaguliers *A Course of Experimental Philosophy*, published in London.

Detailed Condition: