



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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(Atlas) *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* [with] *Addiamentum*

Stock#: 55263
Map Maker: Ortelius
Date: 1574 (with 1584 *Addiamentum*)
Place: Antwerp
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 17.5 x 12 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

1574 Theatrum Orbis Terrarum with 1584 Addiamentum and Several Extra Maps!

Theatrum: [A6], [B4]; 70 double-page engraved maps; [a-h6]. Complete. The name Andreas Donelli appears on the title page of the *Theatrum*. This is likely a member of the Donelli family of Bologna, a noble family dating the 15th Century.

Folio. Expertly rebound utilizing later Dutch gilt vellum, the covers with thin panels at the edges, the central panel with gilt-tooled arabesques in the corners and the central figure of Atlas carrying an armillary; the spine and covers remboitaged from different bindings.

Addiamentum: Title and contents leaf, 29 double-page engraved map sheets (with the large Egypt on two sheets), including 2 extra maps from a Dutch edition of the atlas.

Folio. Remboitage full vellum, recased; blue cloth ties.

Maps of 1584

Here, the 1574 edition of the atlas is supplemented with the additional maps published up to 1584 in the *Addiamentum*. Most notably, this is the first appearance of the map of China (the first modern map of China) and the map of Florida (the first map to focus on this region).

Theatrum Orbis Terrarum

Ortelius's *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* (or "Theater of the World") is widely considered to be the first true



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modern atlas. The *Theatrum* was the best available summary of 16th-century cartographic knowledge, covering much of the exploration of the world in the century following the discovery of America.

The atlas was first published in 1570 in Antwerp, and it was published consistently until 1612. Recent research has unearthed examples of the atlas with maps dated to 1640.

Ortelius was the artist of all of the maps; he drew them by hand, and those drawings were interpreted into prints by his engravers Frans Hogenberg, Ambrosius Arsenius, and Ferdinand Arsenius.

The broad appeal of the *Theatrum* saw demand from many consumers who preferred to read the atlas in their local language. Thus, in addition to Latin, the book was published with text in Dutch, French, German, Italian, Spanish, and English.

After Ortelius's death in 1598, the copper plates for his atlas passed to his heirs. They, in turn, sold the collection to Jan Baptist Vrients (1522-1612) in 1601. Vrients added new maps and published the atlas until his death in 1612. Vrients's widow then sold the plates to the Moretus brothers, who were the successors of Christoffel Plantin.

Detailed Condition:

Two volumes. Vellum.