



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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Figura observationum Comet, a R.D.P. Aegidio Franc. de Gottingnies S.I. in Colleg. Rom Math Prof. mense Dec. 1664 factar ad Comm. R.D. P. Alb Cutij S.I. pert.

Stock#: 60440
Map Maker: Lubieniecki
Date: 1668
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 15 x 9 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The Great Comet of 1664 - December 1664

Rare celestial map showing figural representations of the constellations and the stars of which they are composed. The progress of a comet through this area of the sky is demarcated, along with the date at which each observation was made, beginning December 14, 1664 and ending December 31, 1665.

The transit begins below Corvus and Crater, passing through Hydra and Argonavis, Canis Maior and Lepus, ending below Orion.

The Great Comet of 1664 was first discovered 18 days before perihelion. The comet followed and unusual path through the winter constellations, coming closest to Earth in late December 1664. Toward the end of December, it was in Corvus in the morning sky. At its closest to earth on December 29, the comet was south of Sirius in Canes Major. At the beginning of January, the comet moved out of Lepus, past Rigel and by the middle of the month crossed the eastern area of Cetus (the Monster's mouth). It was last observed in the constellation of Aries.

The map from Lubienicki's *Theatrum Cometicum* are rare on the market.

Lubieniecki's encyclopedic treatise gathered together the observations of dozens of his contemporaries including Bayer and Hevelius, covering all known comets up to the year 1665. The fine engravings consist of celestial maps showing the paths of comets and the figures of the constellations traversed. "Since each map represents the observations of a different astronomer, taken together they illustrate the variety of cartographic traditions popular during the seventeenth century." (Warner, *The Sky Explored*, p. 164). The



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second part provides a chronology of 415 comet sightings from the flood (the first report is dated to 2312 BC) to 1665, with commentaries, drawn from a range of historical sources.

Rarity

Lubieniecki's book is rarely encountered in anything near a complete state. Only two complete copies of the first edition are recorded at auction since 1975 by ABPC: the Honeyman and Dunham copies. Of the three copies held by the British Library, two are substantially defective.

Detailed Condition: