



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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A New and Accurat Map of the World Drawne According to ye Truest Descriptions Latest Discoveries & Best Observations yet have beene Made by English or Strangers

Stock#: 60683
Map Maker: Walton
Date: 1656 (1659)
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 20.5 x 15.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

An English Rarity—Third State of Robert Walton's Rare, Decorative World Map

Striking example of Robert Walton's fine, separately-issued double hemisphere map of the world, which is often mistaken for John Speed's 1627 world map. However, while both maps are equals in their beauty and scope, the Walton is considerably rarer.

While the titles and geographic configurations of the Speed and Walton maps are quite similar, on close examination the maps have at least one significant difference which is readily observable. The positions of the allegorical figures are reversed, such that Fire and Aire are at the top of Walton's map, whereas they appear on the bottom of Speed's map. Speed's map is in turn based on William Grent's extremely rare map of the world published in London (1625).

The map bristles with interesting geographic details. The Strait of Anian separates North America from Asia in the far east of the eastern hemisphere. Japan is shown in a stout configuration, while Korea is shown as an island.

In the western hemisphere, California is also shown as an island. It is tucked into a massive western coast of North America which stretches diagonally to the northwest across the North Pacific. Another island of interest in this hemisphere is Frisland, the mythical island from the Zeno map, which is in the far North Atlantic.



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Stretching across both hemispheres are coastlines which are suggestions of a massive southern continent. As a note in the southern Indian Ocean explains, "This South part of the world containing almost the third part of the Globe is yet unknowne certaine sea coasts excepted which rather shewe there is a land then descry either Land people or Comodities."

The south land in the eastern hemisphere includes Beach and Maletur, which is a kingdom "abundant with sundry sortes of spices." Both of these are toponyms from Marco Polo's travels. Originally meant to denote regions of Java, they migrated south on early modern maps.

Farther west, another note mentions *Psittacorum regio*, "soe called of ye Portegals from ye extraordinary and almost incredible bignes of those birds there." This place name appeared on Mercator's 1541 globe and his 1569 world map. It was supposed to have been sighted by Portuguese sailors but was never verified in terms of size or location.

In the western hemisphere, Tierra del Fuego is ambiguously placed with relation to Statenlandt and the hypothetical southern continent. Here the continent is called Magellanica, "Ferdinand Magellanus gave name to this vast unknowne Tract from whom it is so called." Nearby is a cartouche that proclaims the navigational prowess of Francis Drake and Thomas Cavendish, who both sailed around the world in the late-sixteenth century.

The central hemispheres are surrounded by smaller celestial hemispheres tucked at the center. Astronomy is further referenced with diagrams in the corners showing the Ptolemaic model of the solar system, a solar eclipse, a lunar eclipse, and an armillary sphere held by a disembodied arm and meant to show how to prove the sphericity of the earth.

Allegorical vignettes of Fire, Aire, Earth, and Water also adorn the map. Each is accompanied by animals, such as a salamander with Fire and an elephant with Earth.

The map includes portraits of four of the most famous explorers of the era: Francis Drake, Thomas Cavendish, Oliver Van Noort, and Ferdinand Magellan. Magellan's crew completed the first circumnavigation of the earth in 1519-1522, although Magellan himself was killed in the Philippines. Drake and Cavendish completed the third and fifth circumnavigations on behalf of England in 1577-80 and 1586-8 respectively. Oliver van Noort was the first Dutchman to circle the world, and the ninth overall to do so, in 1598-1601.

States of the map and rarity



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The first edition of Walton's map, engraved in 1656, included his name and address (Rose and Crowne) at the end of the title. Examples with Walton's second address (Globe and Compass) are included with Thomas Porter's *A Compendious View...of the Whole World* (1659).

This third state, with no maker information in the title, is sometimes attached to the English translation of the second part of Denis Petau's *History of the World* (third edition, 1659). For this state, OCLC lists the examples at Yale's Beinecke Library and the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut Preußischer Kulturbesitz (Germany). There also several institutional examples included with Petau's book.

Walton's map is much rarer than John Speed's map and is of equal artistic beauty and cartographic merit.

Detailed Condition: