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Nova Totius Terrarum Orbis Geographica Ac Hydrographica Tabula auct Guiljelmo Blaeuw

Stock#: 62699
Map Maker: Blaeu
Date: 1660 circa
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 21.5 x 16 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Willem Janszoon Blaeu's decorative, carte-a-figure map of the World.

One of the finest and most famous world maps to appear in an atlas during the Golden Age of Dutch cartography. The map became Blaeu's standard world map in his atlases until 1662 when a double hemisphere map of the world was added. Later a double hemisphere polar projection was included by Valck.

The map's rectangular shape and a regular grid of latitude and longitude lines reflect Blaeu's use of Gerard Mercator's projection which Mercator first introduced in 1569. Blaeu's map is essentially a reduced-size version of his wall map of 1605, with basically identical geographical information. As is characteristic of the Mercator projection, the sizes and shapes of landmasses in the polar regions are greatly exaggerated. The map is now famous for its elaborate ornamentation, embellished with ships, sea monsters, compass roses, and ornate border panels. Across the top are allegorical representations of the sun and moon and the five known planets - Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn. The four basic elements, Fire, Air, Water, and Land, are illustrated on the left panel, while the four seasons are depicted on the right panel. The seven wonders of the ancient world are displayed in the bottom panels.

The lower panel includes illustrations of the seven wonders of the Ancient World.

The left panel illustrates the personifications of the four elements. The right panel illustrates the personifications of the four seasons.



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The top panel shows the seven planets of the old cosmology personified as Roman gods.

The map incorporates some of the classic early 17th century cartographic misconceptions, including the elongated Northwest coast of America, a massive southern landmass with narrow strait between it and South America, incomplete New Guinea attached to a large southern continent, etc.

States of the Map:

The present example is state 5 of the map. The states can be determined as follows:

- State 1. The image does *not* include the signature "Ja. vanden Ende sculpsit." to the lower left of the South Pole projection. Shirley says "possibly a proof".
- State 2. With signature of Josua van den Ende: "Ja. vanden Ende sculpsit"
- State 3. As state 2, but *Terra del Fuego* is now an island and *Fretum le Maire* has been added. Probably issued in 1617, as a companion map of Europe bears this date.
- State 4: "Gul. Janssonius 1606" removed and replaced with "Guil. Blaeuw". "Gulielmus Janssonius" replaced with "Gulielmus Blaeuw"
- State 5: Confusingly, this final state, unrecorded by Shirley, adds back the connection between *Terra del Fuego* and the Southern Continent and some of the coastline erased in the third state.

Detailed Condition:

Excellent original hand-color. Wide margins.