



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## [First American Sea Atlas] *La Primera Parte Del Nuevo Gran Espejo Maritimo, Alumbrando las Costas Maritimas de la Navigacion de la India Occidental, Empecando de la Costa de Espana Hasta el Rio de Amazonas...*

**Stock#:** 68421  
**Map Maker:** Roggeveen / Robijn  
**Date:** 1690  
**Place:** Amsterdam  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 13.3 x 18 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

#### *First Sea Atlas of North America, The Spanish Main & Part of South America*

Fine example of the first Sea Atlas of North America, offered here with the imprint of Jacobus Robijn shortly after his acquisition of the atlas.

Arent Roggeveen published the first sea atlas of American coasts, a work drawn largely from the secreted nautical charts of the Dutch East India Company (VOC) and Dutch West India Company (WIC). Extending from the Canadian Maritimes, East Coast of North America, Gulf of Mexico and the Dutch "West Indies", a term then interpreted much more broadly than today, including not only the entire Caribbean, the Gulf of Mexico and Central America, Roggeveen's atlas was a work of monumental importance, treating in fine detail regions which had previously only received broad and relatively cursory regional coverage in the prior sea atlases of Dudley, Goos, Donckers, and Van Keulen.

Arent Roggeveen (c.1628-1779) first came to notice in Middelburg as a teacher in 1658. Trained in mathematics and land-surveying, and with an interest in astronomy, he undertook the study of navigation. Middelburg was an important center for both the VOC and WIC, and many of Roggeveen's students worked in the two companies. Around 1670, the Middelburg VOC administrators asked Roggeveen to secretly draw nautical charts for them as a surveyor.



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In 1668, with the encouragement of the Middelburg WIC Chamber, Roggeveen decided to undertake his own work on Atlantic navigation, rather than wait for Blaeu or other Amsterdam mapmakers. Using his connection as gained access to the VOC's trove of Spanish and Portuguese manuscript sea charts that the companies had captured, copied by espionage, or commissioned (some American place names in Roggeveen's atlas still retain their Spanish forms). These stores of charts had been closely guarded national secrets during the Dutch war of independence from Spain and were still closely guarded, as it gave the Dutch merchants of the VOC and WIC an important commercial advantage. This access gave Roggeveen a remarkable cache of unpublished material to produce more accurate and more detailed sea charts than had ever been published before.

The first edition of Roggeveen's atlas was published in 1675 by Pieter Goos. A second edition was published until 1680, by which time the plates had been acquired by the chart dealer Jacobus Robijn. Robijn went on to republish the a third edition in 1689, with a fourth edition in 1698. The atlas was relatively successful, with editions published with Dutch, English, French and Spanish text.

#### **Rarity**

We are unable to trace an institutional example of this edition, with the date of 1690 on the title page. Koeman records six institutional examples of the 1680 Spanish edition.

This would seem to be the only surviving example to bear the imprint of Robijn.

#### **Detailed Condition:**

Folio (450 x 280 cm). Title, privilege, [2]p. description of the earth, 67pp., 34 engraved charts (all double-page apart from the chart of Catalina), seventeenth century Spanish pig skin.