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[Cygnus]

Stock#: 68968
Map Maker: Bayer
Date: 1624
Place: Augsburg
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 15.5 x 11.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine example of Bayer's map of the Constellation Cygnus, one of the 48 constellations listed by the 2nd-century astronomer Ptolemy, which remains one of the 88 modern constellations defined by the International Astronomical Union.

Cygnus is a Latinized version of the Greek word for the swan.

The plate was originally included in the forty-eight maps of the individual constellations in Bayer's *Uranometria*, in 1603. This is from the first reissue, without text on verso. The stars are identified by letters, Greek for the brightest, Roman for the fainter, with the order of the alphabets corresponding to decreasing brightness of the stars. Although a similar scheme had been introduced by Piccolomini (1540), it was Bayer's scheme that became universally accepted. Bayer based his constellation figures on the work of Jacobo de Gheyn and included stars from Ptolemy as well as the recent observations of Tycho Brahe and Keyser.

Detailed Condition:

Stars heightened in gold. Trimmed to neatline and mounted on 18th-century paper, ruled in ink.