



## Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

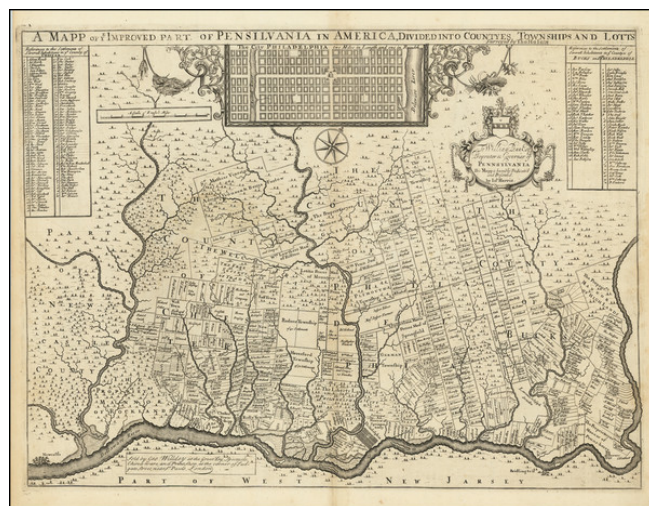
7407 La Jolla Boulevard  
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500  
blr@raremaps.com

### **A Mapp of ye Improved Part of Pensilvania in America. Divided into Countyes, Townships and Lotts Surveyed by Tho: Holme . . . .**

**Stock#:** 77904  
**Map Maker:** Willdey / Holme  
**Date:** 1687 (circa 1715)  
**Place:** London  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 21.5 x 16 inches  
**Price:** Not Available



#### **Description:**

#### ***A Highly Important Early American Cadastral Plan.***

Rare early engraved map of the area around Philadelphia, as surveyed by Thomas Holme at the request of William Penn.

The present map is a single sheet version of Thomas Holme's important 6 sheet map of the region published in 1687 and incorporates an inset map of the city of Philadelphia, drawn from Holme's exceedingly rare town plan *Portraiture of the City of Philadelphia*, issued in 1683, which is generally considered the earliest city plan of any city in the United States.

#### **Thomas Holme's Map of Pennsylvania**

Thomas Holme's original 6 sheet map from which this map is drawn has been called "the greatest of early American maps." It is without question the most extraordinary wall map of any British Colony published in the 17th Century and both a visual and cartographic masterpiece.

In 1681, William Penn was granted sole proprietorship to more than forty-five thousand square miles in a region that he named Pennsylvania. Through vigorous promotion more than a half-million acres were sold in the first year alone. Because each tract had to be laid out before it could be developed, Penn appointed Thomas Holme surveyor general of the colony in April 1682. Holme immediately began to survey the land and to lay out the future city of Philadelphia. A plan titled *A Portraiture of the City of Philadelphia* was



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published in 1683. Penn then pressured Holme to produce a general map of the colony complaining from London that "we want a map to the degree that I am ashamed here ... all cry out, where is your map, what no map of the settlements!"

The completed manuscript was on its way to Penn in London by May 1687, and the finished map was advertised in January 1688. It illustrates the "improved", or settled, area of the province along the western bank of the Delaware River, a tract of approximately fifty-five miles in length and thirty-three miles in width. On a scale of one mile to one inch, it locates the holdings of 670 settlers, and was the only map of any English colony to give such a detailed account of settlement. Holme's 1683 plan of Philadelphia, the first published for any English American city, was included in reduced form as an inset in the upper right corner. The map's prolific size insured its rarity over time.

A reduced version was published by Philip Lea around 1690. The present map is the second state of the map, issued by George Willdey circa 1715.

**Rarity**

The Holme map is rare on the market. The first edition last appeared in a dealer catalog in 2015 (Donald Heald- \$62,500). Three examples of the map have appeared at auction in the past 15 years: Swann Galleries, 2006, \$43,700; Sotheby's, 2019, \$46,250; Sotheby's, 2021, \$60,480.

**Detailed Condition:**