



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

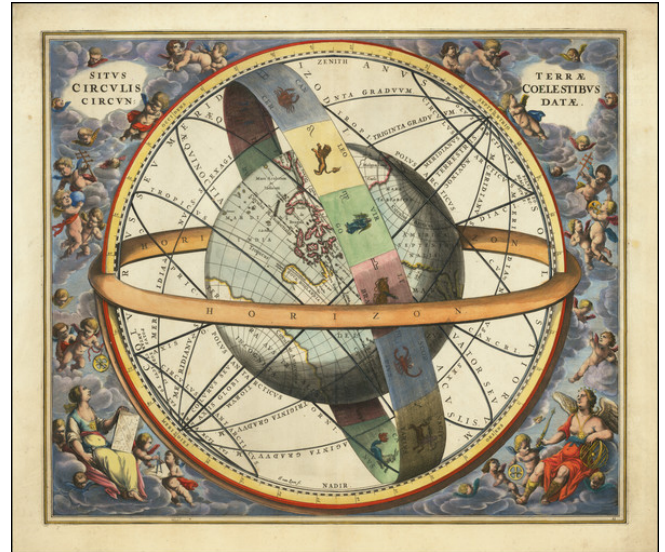
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(The Ptolemaic Universe) *Situs Terrae Circulis Coelestibus Circundatae* . . .

Stock#: 79412
Map Maker: Cellarius
Date: 1661
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 20 x 17 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Striking celestial chart showing a Ptolemaic model of the universe, with the earth in its relation to the plane of the ecliptic. This map example is from the 1661 second issue of Cellarius's *Harmonia Macrocosmica seu Atlas Universalis et Novus*.

This plate serves to explain the relationship between the various lines of celestial importance and the zodiac. The tropics are tangential to the zodiac and nearly perpendicular to it, but not quite, is the horizon line. The polar circles are projected out at the angle created by the tilt of the Earth, and various synthetic meridians are shown. Wrapped around all of these lines of navigational importance is the embellished line of the zodiac, with Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, and Sagittarius visible. Cherubs fly around the plate, holding astronomical tools including cross staffs and dividers. Seated at the bottom left is a feminine form taken to represent astrology, while the winged form at the bottom right, with an armillary sphere, likely represents astronomy.

The projection surrounds a globe centered on the Pacific, with the outline of Australia, California as an island, and America Septentrionalis. A massive Terra Australis Incognita appears in the south, and an unnamed Anian stretches across the Pacific.

Detailed Condition:

Minor repaired damage in the uppermost right and left corners of the margins.