



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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Regiones Sub Polo Arctico . . .

Stock#: 81239
Map Maker: Blaeu
Date: 1635
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 21 x 16.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

First State -- Searching For the Northwest and Northeast Passage

Nice example of the first state of Blaeu's signature map of the North Polar Regions, with several wonderful cartouches and decorative coat of arms.

Blaeu's decorative map of the North Pole, including Arctic North America, Scandinavia, and northern Asia, was one of the most accurate 17th-century polar maps. The information for this map is based on the discoveries of James, Barentsz, Baffin, Frobisher, Hall, Davis, and others. In particular, this map incorporates the discoveries of James along the southern and western shore of Hudson's Bay in 1631-32, just before the issue of the state and promotes the view that the famous "Northwest Passage" across northern North America did not exist.

The map suggests that a northeast passage might be possible, as the northern Russian and Siberian coastline appears intact and the sea clear and without any barrier to progress. The Canadian Arctic, however, appears almost landlocked lacking any promise of a northwest route to the Indies, with the exception of several small sounds.

The map is highly decorative - eight compass roses are included, with curved lines so that they always point in the requisite direction. Ships can be found at sea, and a marvelous cartouche requires a thorough inspection.

This map was accurately updated using the latest voyages. The model it was based on would prove more



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accurate than the previous Mercator model, which had a clear northwest passage as well as several mythical features, such as the four polar islands and the island of Friesland.

States

1. c. 1638 Without the dedication on the left-hand side
2. 1645. With dedication to GVILIELMO BACKER DE CORNELJIS , signed by Joan Blaeu. No other alterations.
3. undated in Burden. c. 1650? Groenlandia named.

Detailed Condition: