



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

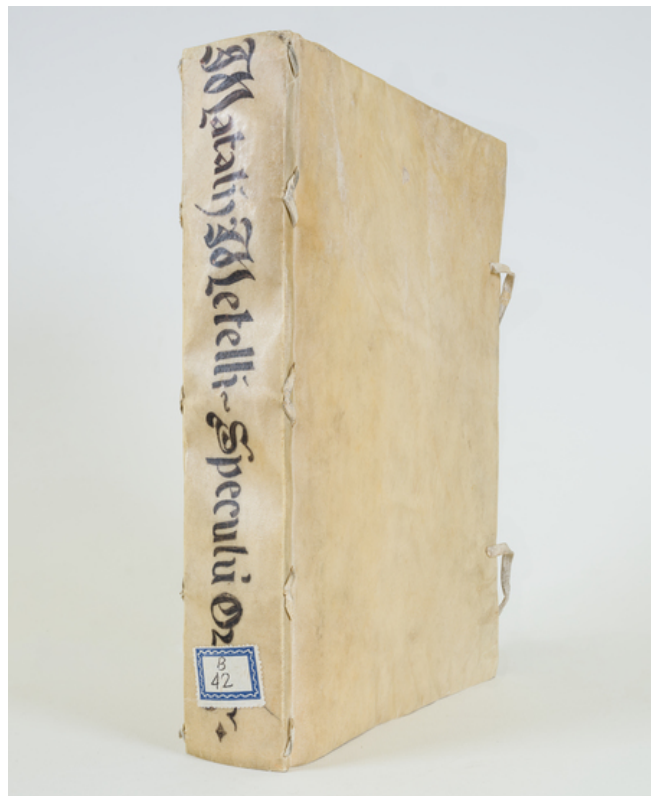
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[Speculum orbis terrae auctore]

Stock#: 83533
Map Maker: Metellus
Date: 1600
Place: Oberursel
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size:
Price: SOLD



Description:

An Exceptionally Large Atlas for its Time. Metellus's Asia, Africa, and Europe Atlases Combined in One Volume.

An attractive presentation of three of Metellus's atlases, perhaps constituting a predecessor for the most sought-after of Metellus's atlases, the *Speculum Orbis Terrae*. This volume contains an early, though not contemporary, manuscript title, calling it the *Speculum Orbis Terrae*..., which is dated 1600. According to Meurer (MET 6, 7, 8, and 10), the *Speculum* first appeared in 1602. While the complete *Speculum* should also contain the *America* book (first published in 1598) and the "Islands" suite, it should be noted the present volume contains no maps produced after 1600, whereas the Islands maps were published in 1601 and 1602. The prospect that the present work is an early predecessor to the finished *Speculum* remains a tantalizing possibility. Perhaps most importantly, even in this reduced size, the present atlas is exceptionally large for its time; the 1612 *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* (the largest Ortelius made) had "only" 128 maps, whereas this volume has 181 maps



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This unusual presentation starts with a manuscript title page that dates the book to 1600 and credits Cornelius Sutor's publishing house in Oberursel. The book then opens with Metellus's *Asia Tabulis Aenis*, containing eleven maps of the Far East, before continuing with Metellus's *Africa Ad Artis Geographicae*. The *Africa* has seven maps but lacks the *Fessae* map. The bulk of the book is in the third part, a reordered *Europa Tabulis Aenis*.

The ordering of this book reflects the organization of the 1602 *Speculum*, which also progresses through Asia, Africa, and Europe in the same order, although the organization of the Europe section is changed. Metellus and Sutor's *Speculum* is considered one of the pinnacles of atlas collecting for a number of reasons, including the fact that it was **the largest atlas ever produced when it was made**, that it was one of the very few atlases to adhere to Mercator's ideal geographically divided atlas, and that it was read by Sir Walter Raleigh and his contemporaries.

The many maps contained in this volume display the distinctive and attractive qualities of Cologne school maps, including a focus on often-overlooked regions. Many of the maps are titled in two or more languages, a feature rarely seen in Dutch, French, or Italian maps of the 16th century.

In terms of the number of its volumes and maps, it was the largest atlas undertaking of the 16th century; in this regard, it was not surpassed until the middle of the 17th century, by the multi-volume atlases of Blaeu and Janssonius. - Meurer (translated)

Johannes Matalius Metellus

Johannes Metellus represented the archetypal 16th-century Northern European humanist. During his career, he resided in Bologna, Rome, Venice, Florence, England, Antwerp, Cologne, and Augsburg, among other cities. He overlapped with the greatest scholars and cartographers of his day, and was involved in some of the greatest atlas projects of all time. He consulted for Ortelius and Plantain on cartographic matters, while he also wrote the introduction for Volume III of Braun and Hogenberg's *Civitates Orbis Terrarum*.

Metellus was clearly a very highly regarded figure, and near the end of his life he started producing his own atlases in Cologne. His first work was the 1594 *Franciae, Austrasiae, et Helvetiae*, which featured maps of Europe and re-used plates from an anonymous earlier work, the *Itinerarium orbis Christiani*, to which Metellus is believed to have contributed. Metellus produced three more atlases before he died in 1597.

Metellus's largest atlases were all produced posthumously between 1600 and 1602 by an anonymous friend of Metellus, although the authorship of some of the plates that appeared in these volumes is



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unknown. The first four posthumous atlases, published in Oberursel by "Cornelius Sutor," appeared in 1600, and these were his continental atlases of Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. 1601 saw the publication of Metellus's *Insularium*, a book on islands, and these five books were all joined in 1602 as part of a *Speculum Orbis Terrae*. The *Speculum*, which was ordered Asia; Africa; Europe; and the Americas, had island maps from the *Insularium* interspersed. The book was the largest atlas of its time, and would remain so until the Jansson - Blaeu rivalry of the middle of the 16th century.

Metellus and the rest of the Cologne School publishers, with the exception of Braun and Hogenberg who found their niche in city views, lagged too far behind the well-established Dutch atlas makers to establish themselves internationally. Despite their attractive maps, insightful cartography, and central European location, their maps were never as widely disseminated. For this reason, all Cologne School atlases, even the important Metellus atlases, remain rare today.

Provenance

Early ink inscription to the manuscript title "Snba.[?] de H.P. S. Franco. de Valld." Probably referring to an early owner in the monastery of San Francisco de Valladolid, in Spain. This would account for the decision to use a Spanish-style limp vellum binding, as well.

Rarity

Meurer records only three examples of the Europe atlas, at the Staatsbibliothek Berlin; the Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen; and the Staats- and Stadtbibliothek Augsburg. The Asia atlas is recorded in six institutions: Staatsbibliothek Berlin; the Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen; the Bayern State Library; the Staats- and Stadtbibliothek Augsburg; the British Library; and the Royal Library in Brussels. The Africa atlas is recorded in six examples, in the Staatsbibliothek Berlin; the Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen; the Staats- and Stadtbibliothek Augsburg; the Herzog August Bibliothek; and the Royal Library in Brussels.

Metellus's atlases are very uncommon to see on the market. Only three have appeared on the market in the last 15 years: *Asia Tabulis Aenis; Franciae, Austrasiae, et Helvetiae, geographica historiae*; and the *Speculum Orbis Terrae*. The example of the *Speculum*, for which this book could be the imminent predecessor, fetched about 390,000 dollars at Mopelia Sale, Christie's, London, in 2019.

Collation

As previously stated, this book contains the Metellus Asia, Africa, and Europe atlases. These are complete with the exception of the Africa atlas, which lacks the map of Fessae. In addition, no title page to the



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Europe atlas is included in the book.

The Asia and Africa atlases are ordered as per usual. The Europe atlas is completely re-ordered, in a very unusual manner that appears to have no parallel in any other known atlas. This part starts with the first eighteen maps in the correct order, before including maps 122 - 158 (using Meurer's collation). Then, the atlas proceeds to maps 19 to 121. Maps 159 - 163 appear between map 18 and map 53. This decision to reorder is understood to result in a focus on more general, country-wide maps at the start of the book before proceeding with local German, French, and Dutch maps at the end.

A previous collation of this work has suggested that the book includes maps from the *Itinerarium Orbis Christiani* that are not present in the Metellus *Europa Tabulis Aenis*. This does not appear to be the case, as the maps which are suggested to have appeared in the *Itinerarium* are reported by Meurer to have been reused by Metellus in the *Europa*. Thus, this part is simply a rearranged *Europa*.

Maps

The maps included in the work are the following:

Asia

1. Asia
2. Iaponia Regnum
3. Magni Tartari Imperium
4. Regnum Chinae
5. Regnum Sian
6. Regnum Narsingae
7. Calecuty Regnum
8. Magni Mogori Imperium
9. Persiae Regnum
10. Natoliam
11. Syria
12. Arabia

Africa

1. Africa
2. Babaria
3. Aegyptus



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4. Lybia & Nigritarum Terra
5. Regnu Congo
6. Presbiteri Iohannis Imperium
7. Regnum Monomotapae

[Europe]

1. Europa
2. Septentrionalium Terrarum descriptio 1597
3. Islandia Insula
4. Anglia Scotia et Hibernia
5. Hibernia Irlandt Irlande
6. Anglia Lat Ingilattera Itali Engellandt Ger Angleterre. Gal
7. Cambria Cambry Wales
8. Scotia Regnum
9. Daniae Regnu
10. Sueciae Regnum
11. Moscovia
12. Tavrica Chersonesus nostra aetate Przecpsca et Gazara dicta
13. Lithuania
14. Polonia Lithania Livonia
15. Moldavia et Walachia Transalpina
16. Transylvania
17. Hungaria Ungarn
18. Grecia Griechnlandt Grece
19. Thracia nunc Romania
20. Peloponnesus Nunc Morea
21. Cretea Seu Candiae Insulai Descriptio
22. Illyricum
23. Italia
24. Liguria nunc Oragenuensis
25. Thuscia
26. Perusini agri Descriptio
27. Senensis Ditio
28. Umbria nunc Spoletinus Ducatus
29. Latium nunc Campagna di Roma
30. Campania Foelix aut Terralaboris



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31. Lucania vulgo Basilicata
32. Brutu nunc Calabria
33. Magna Grecia nunc Calabria Superior
34. Puglia Italice Terra di Otranto
35. Apulia Peucetia nunc Terra Bariana
36. Apulia Daunia nunc Apuliam Piana Vocant
37. Samnitum Regio quae nunc Apricium
38. Marchia Anconitana Olim Picenum
39. Flaminia que et Romanula Nunc Vulgo Romandiola
40. Regy et Modenae Territoriu
41. Parmensis Placentiniq Ducatus Descriptio
42. Alexandria Tortonae et Vogerae Territorium
43. Montisferati Marchionatus
44. Pedemontium Piedmont
45. Rhetiae pars et Le Pontioru Regio
46. Mediolanensis Ducatus
47. Brixiae Territorium
48. Agri Cremonensis Typus
49. Mantuae Ducatus
50. Verona Urbis Territorium
51. Tyrolensis Comitatus pars ea ad Italiam spectat
52. Vicentinae Urbis Territorium
53. Territorium Patavinum
54. Taruisini Agri Typus
55. Forum tuly Friuli
56. Histri Titerreich Istrie
57. Ischia quae olim Aenaria
58. Siciliae Regnum
59. Malta Olim Melita Insula
60. Germania
61. Frisia Orientalis
62. Aldeburgensis Comitatus
63. Bremensis Episcopatus
64. Hoisatia Holstein Holsatie
65. Megapolitanus Ducatus Vulgo Meclenburg
66. Pomerania & Brandenburg
67. Prussia Lat Preussen Ger



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68. Livonia
69. Marca Brandenburgensis & Pomerania
70. Lawenburgensis et Luneburginsis Ducatus
71. Westphalia Westphalen Westphalie
72. Brunswicensis Ducatus
73. Mansfeldia Mansfeltt Mansfelt
74. Meydburgensis Archi Episcopatus
75. Misnia Meissen Misne
76. Lusatiae Marchionatus [Inverted]
77. Silesia Schlesien Silesie
78. Moravia Merhern
79. Bohemia
80. Thuringia Thuringen Thuringie
81. Hassia Hesse Hessen
82. Comitatus Waldeckensis De Franschafft Baldeck La Conte de Waldeck
83. Arnspergicus Comitatus et Coloniensis Diocesis Superior
84. Marchiae Comitatus
85. Clibia Cleue Cleues
86. Iulia Bulich Iuliers
87. Listhunss Luttich Leuesche De Liege
88. Trier
89. Franconia Franckenlandt
90. Palatinatus Superior Bavariae
91. Austria Archiducatus
92. Stiria Steyr march Stiremarche
93. Carinthia Karntn carinthie
94. Episcopatus Salczburgensis
95. Bavariae Ducatus
96. Tyrol
97. Sweviae Circulus Duwrtenberg hett
98. Wurtemberg la Duche de Wirtemberg
99. Belgium Il Paese Basso Nederlandt Le Pays Bas
100. Brabantiae Ducatus Brabans
101. Limburgensis Ducatus et Comitatus Valkenburgensis et Dalemsis
102. Lutzenburgensis Ducatus Lutzenburg Hertzogthumb
103. Geldriae Ducatus Hesserens Hertzogthumb
104. Flandria Hiacndercn Fiandra Elandren



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105. Artesia
106. Nobilis Commitatus Hannoniae Henegav Hanailutt
107. Hollandiae Comitatus Hollant
108. Zutphaniae Comitatus
109. Zelandia
110. Conamur Cum Namur
111. Frisia Occidetalis
112. Ultraiectensis Episcopatus
113. Transinsula Ditio
114. Groningense Territorium
115. Francia Franckreich
116. Caletense Terr Territoire de Calais
117. Boloniensis Comitatus Lacomtede Boloigne
118. Ponthieu Comitatus
119. Normannia Normandie Gallice
120. Picardia Picardie Galli
121. Veromanduorum Comitatus La Comte de Vermandois
122. Bellosiana Regio La Beausse Gallice
123. Campania Etbria Champaigne et Brie Galli
124. Cenomania Le Mans Gallice
125. Bellosiana Regio La Beausse Gallice
126. Burgundiae Ducatu Bourgogne Duche
127. Britannia Bretagne Gallic
128. Andegaunsis Ducatus Aniou Herzogthumb
129. Briturigus Berry Gallice
130. Pictauia Poictou
131. Borbonia Borbonnois Niuernesium Niuernois
132. Angolismia Engoulesme Santones Xantonge Rupella La Rochelle
133. Limogiana Provincia Limosin Gallice
134. Arvernia Auvergne Gallice
135. Limania Vulgo Limaigne
136. Lugduenesium Lyonnois Gallice
137. Delphinatus Dauphine Gallice
138. Vasconia Gascogne gallice Guienna Guienne
139. Periguria Perigort Cadurcorum regio Quercy
140. Languedoci Languedoc Gallice
141. Provincia La Provence



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- 142. Venaissinus Comitatus La Comte devenissy Auraicensis Principatus La Principaut Dorenge
- 143. Lotharingiae Lorraine Gallica
- 144. Pallatinatus Bavaria Pfalitz am Rhein
- 145. Alsatia Inferior
- 146. Alsatia Superior
- 147. Sunggoia Sungow
- 148. Burgundiae Comitatus La Franch Comte
- 149. Sabaudia Sauoye Gallice
- 150. Nuitlandia Uchtlandia
- 151. Argovia Tuguri Praeff Turgouia
- 152. Rhethia Grawbundt Grisons Gallice
- 153. Valesiae Wallisser Landt
- 154. Hispania Espana
- 155. Castilia Estrema Dura Aesturie Navarra
- 156. Galitia Galizia hisp
- 157. Portugallia Portugal
- 158. Andalusia Andalusia Hisp
- 159. Hispalensis Conventus Delinatio
- 160. Granatae Regnu Reyno de Granada
- 161. Valentiae Regnu Reyno de Valentia Hispa
- 162. Aragonia et Catalonia Aragon y Cataluna
- 163. Guipuscoa Guipuzcua hisp

Detailed Condition:

Quarto. Modern antique-style limp vellum with ribbons and spine reading "Matalij Metelli ~ Specului Orbis" and blue-rimmed pastedown annotated B42. [6]; [Manuscript title]; Asia Tabulis Aenis; [2]; A - M, complete with 11 maps; Africa Ad Artis Geographicae; [2]; A, C-H [Lacking map of Fessae]; aa-ss; bbb; aaa; ccc-ddd; ZZ; YY; A-C; C2; C3; D-Q; Q2; Q3; Q4; R - R6; S - S5; T - Z; A; A - Z; Aa - Pp; a - q (k and m erroneously reversed); 1 - 39; A - K [representing Metellus's complete Europe atlas, without title page]. Minor splitting of front pastedown sheet to board at top. Manuscript title with some loss of lettering due to oxidation of ink. Book otherwise in excellent condition. Manuscript 20th-century pencil collation at front flyleaf and near-contemporary paginations in ink.