



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

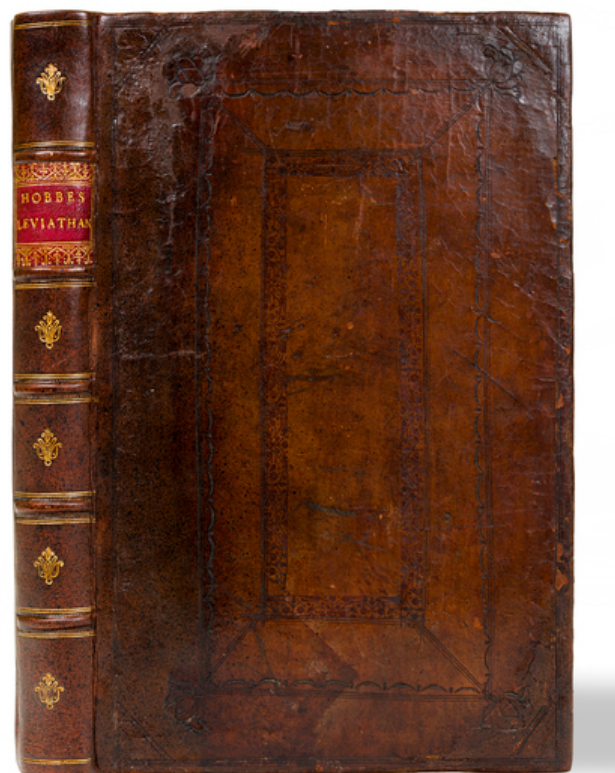
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Leviathan: Or the matter, Forme, and Power of a Common-Wealth Ecclesiasticall and Civill

Stock#: 86228
Map Maker: Hobbes
Date: 1651
Place: London
Color:
Condition: VG+
Size: 8 x 12 inches
Price: \$ 29,500.00



Description:

First edition. First Issue.

Title page with head ornament, marking the first (and only) issue of the first edition.

Thomas Hobbes's *Leviathan* is a seminal work in political philosophy and social theory. In the wake of the English Civil War, Hobbes constructs a compelling argument for the necessity of a strong, centralized authority—or "Leviathan"—to avoid the anarchy and violence he describes as the natural state of mankind. Through rigorous logic and a materialist view of human nature, Hobbes advocates for a social contract in which individuals surrender certain freedoms to a sovereign in exchange for security and order, fundamentally shaping the modern understanding of governance and sovereignty. The work's exploration of the dynamics between liberty, security, and authority raises enduring questions about power, governance, and human nature. *Leviathan* remains a cornerstone in the study of political science and



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philosophy, reflecting on the complexities of human society and the structures we construct to manage them.

"... the fundamental nature of his speculation has stimulated philosophers from Spinoza (153) to the school of Bentham (237), who reinstated him in his position as the most original political philosopher of his time."

-PMM

Detailed Condition:

Folio. Full contemporary speckled, paneled calf (expertly rebacked to match). Covers tooled in blind (rubbed). Spine in 6 compartments separated by raised bands (5 ruled in gilt with gilt motif, 1 with gilt tooling and lettering on red morocco label). Light overall foxing to folded plate, minor foxing to text. A3 (table of contents) with pot watermark (ca. 1642). Occasional contemporary ink corrections, later pencil marginalia to B1v. Hole in B1, touching a few letters. Dampstaining near bottom gutter of gathering Z. Minor closed tear (thinning to paper), starting at bottom margin of Aa4, touching a few letters. Minor worming in bottom outer margin to last 3 gatherings. Housed in custom brown slipcase. Pagination: [iix], 1-248, 247-256, 261-396. Collation: [a1], A-3D4, (folded broadside table).