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(Ptolemaic Universe) Planisphaerium Ptolemaicum, Sive Machina Orbium Mundi Ex Hypothesi Ptolemaica In Plano Disposita

Stock#: 90012
Map Maker: Cellarius
Date: 1661
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 21 x 17.5 inches
Price: \$ 4,500.00



Description:

Striking example of this celestial chart illustration of Claudius Ptolemy's model of the Universe, a model of the solar system with the earth at the center, from the 1661 edition of Andreas Cellarius's *Harmonia Macrocosmica seu Atlas Universalis et Novus*.

This plate shows a two-dimensional representation of the Ptolemaic model, showing a geocentric concept of the universe with concentric circles of the moon, the sun, the planets, and finally the stars radiating outwards. The map is centered on the world, projected from the north pole and showing California as an island. The ecliptic line (showing the zodiac) is projected here. The planets, which revolve around the Earth, are themselves represented as Roman gods and goddesses circling the Earth on a chariot. The signs of the zodiac again appear in the outermost of the charts.

This is not a complete representation of the Ptolemaic model: Ptolemy accounts for the changing distances between the Earth and planets by suggesting that each celestial body (with the exception of extrasolar stars) rotates around a point (termed the epicycle), and it is this point that rotates around the Earth.

Detailed Condition:

Old color.