



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
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**Descriptionis Ptolemaicae augmentum, sive, Occidentis notitia Brevi commentario
illustrata Studio et opera Cornely Wytfliet Louaniensis. (First Edition, Lacking Text)**

Stock#: 90030
Map Maker: Wytfliet
Date: 1597
Place: Louvain
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size:
Price: SOLD



Description:

The First Atlas Devoted Entirely to the Americas. Including the First Printed Map Devoted to California, the Most Accurate Map of the East Coast to Date, and the First Map to use "Canada" in its Title (Burden).

"[A]s important in the history of the early cartography of the new world, as Ptolemy's maps are in the study of the old" (Phillips).

Handsome example of the first edition, second issue, of the first atlas devoted entirely to the Americas, compiled by Cornelius Wytfliet.

Wytfliet's atlas was intended as an addition to Ptolemy, meant to augment the complete geography of the Old World with a complete geography of the New. The maps in the volume are astounding and include remarkable maps of the entirety of the Americas. Particularly notable are the maps of California, Virginia, New France, and the North Atlantic.

Cornelius Wytfliet was a Dutch cartographer who was one of the many learned humanists operating in the universities of Northern Europe around that time. Little is known about his life today, but he is best remembered for his atlas of the Americas, his *Descriptionis Ptolemaicae Augmentum*, first published in 1597.

Wytfliet's work is a must for any serious collector of Americana.

Nordenskiöld, *Facsimile-Atlas to the History of Cartography*:



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As the first general geography of America, the text of Wytfliet's work may, at least in some degree, have contributed to dispel many of the errors regarding the New World ... In the history of early cartography, the maps in Wytfliet's Augmentum play the same part for the New World as Ptolemy's do for the old hemisphere, and they give us a valuable summary of the early cartography of America.

Notable Maps

The atlas includes eight maps of North America (Burden 100-107), a double-hemisphere world map, a map of Antarctica and the Strait of Magellan, six maps of South America, two of Caribbean Islands, and a map of Central America.

Granata Nova Et California

This is the first printed map devoted to California and the Southwestern U.S. One of the map's most interesting features is the depiction of many of the fabled mythical places in the region, including the 7 cities of Cibola (*Septme ciuitaum Patria*), shown around a lake, out of which flows a river which empties into the Gulf of California. The map is largely based upon Plancius' world map of 1592. This is a seminal map for collectors of California and the Southwest.

The title page is in the corrected second issue, without Wytfliet's name misspelled "Wytfliet".

Norumbega et Virginia

This is one of the earliest printed maps of the East Coast of the United States. Wytfliet's map is a highly important record of European knowledge of the region immediately before the English voyages of discovery and settlement in Virginia and New England and Champlain's French expeditions to eastern Canada. Wytfliet's map is the most accurate depiction of the region prior to Joannes de Laet's map, *Nova Anglia, Novvm Belgivm Et Virginia* (1630).

Chica Sive Patagonica et Australis Terra.

This is the first separate map to focus so minutely on the South Pole and its environs. This single sheet is split into two sections, with a map of the Straits of Magellan and a hemispheric projection of *Terra Australis*. In the Australian section of *Terra Australis*, the coastline is given an undulating form, hinting at some of the potential half-discoveries of Portuguese and other sailors. This map probably represents a reprojection of information from Plancius (e.g. his 1592 world map) whose work was the source for most of Wytfliet's other maps.



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Limes Occidentis Quivira et Anian.

This is the second printed map to focus on the region which would become Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. The map shows the coast from Northern California to a mythical Northwest Passage in the Arctic Circle, based upon Mercator's large world map of 1569. It shows an area similar to De Jode's *Quivirae Regnu* of 1593, the first printed map to focus on the area. The nomenclature is from Plancius' World map of 1592.

Detailed Condition:

Small folio. Late-19th- or early-20th-century mottled calf, gilt-tooled red morocco lettering piece on the spine. Engraved title, letterpress dedication leaf, and 19 engraved double-page or folding maps. Lacking all other text leaves. Some centerfold toning. Title page toned and shaved at the right edge.