



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

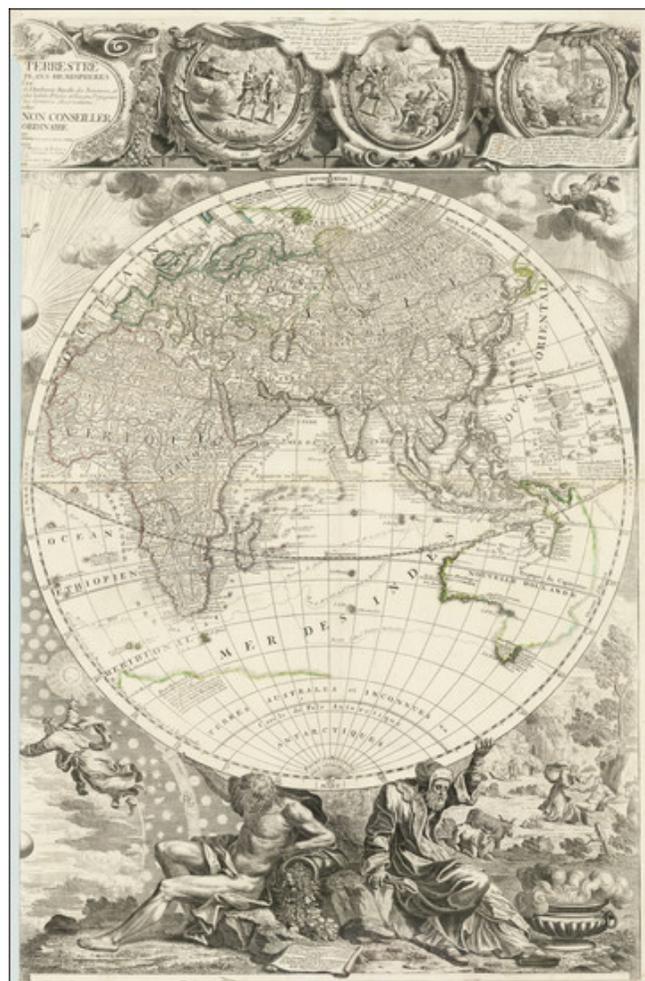
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[Eastern Hemisphere] Le Globe Terrestre Represente En Deux Plans-Hemispheres . . . 1740

Stock#: 92751
Map Maker: Nolin
Date: 1740
Place: Paris
Color: Outline Color
Condition: Good
Size: 38.5 x 24.5 inches
Price: \$ 4,500.00



Description:

"One of the Finest Large-Scale World Maps to be Produced" (Shirley).

Decorative example of the eastern two sheets of Jean Baptiste Nolin's very rare and beautifully decorative wall map of the World.

The quality of the engraving and the artistic virtuosity of the composition are especially fine. The Eastern Hemisphere is displayed amidst a pageant of Baroque allegory. Two atlas figures, representing fall and winter, lift the earthly hemispheres into the heavens. In the space below the intersection of the



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hemispheres, is truncated allegorical depiction of the Ptolemaic conception of the universe, while above the radiant Sun at the center of the Copernican system appears in finely engraved splendor. The panel above the map contains roundels depicting seminal Biblical scenes, located on either side of the fine title cartouche.

Geographically, the map beautifully reflects contemporary conventions, featuring both the knowledge gained from recent discoveries, as well as prevailing cartographic misconceptions. With respect to the depiction of North America the eastern regions represent the best knowledge of French and English cartographers, including the delineation of the Mississippi and its tributaries based on the discoveries of the Sieur de La Salle and Louis Joliet.

The depiction of Asia is generally quite progressive, although one will notice that the Caspian Sea still appears the ovoid form it assumed until the 1730s. In East Asia, Korea is shown to be a peninsula, while in Japan the area of Hokkaido is shown to be part of mainland Siberia.

In Oceania, the western half of Australia is well delineated, while the eastern regions are shown to be an almost complete enigma, and erroneously connected to New Guinea. Abel Tasman's isolated discoveries in southern Tasmania and New Zealand from his voyage of 1642-3 are depicted, although the latter is shown to be connected to the mysterious 'Terres Australes', the rumored great southern continent.

Nolin's map is a premier example of the grand genre of wall, or parlor, maps that enjoyed an iconic place in 17th and early 18th-century Europe. Large, highly decorative and expensive productions, they were considered to be the ultimate signs of wealth and intellectual sophistication. In this vein, such wall maps appeared prominently in works of fine art, most notably the paintings of Johannes Vermeer. Displayed in the salons of leading merchants and noblemen, the maps were especially prone to damage and their survival rate is extremely low, and are often only obtainable in their present, damaged, forms

Jean Baptiste Nolin (c.1657-1708) was the leading French cartographer of the late sixteenth-century. Fulfilling various royal commissions for Louis XIV, Nolin had privileged access to official French geographical sources. He notably maintained a close and highly lucrative association with the great Venetian cartographer Vincenzo Maria Coronelli. Nolin's wall maps of the World and the continents are all exceedingly rare, and are considered to be his finest achievements.

States

The present example represents the 1740 state of the map, although there is ink manuscript updating the date to 1744. The map was first issued in 1700.



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Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color, in outline on two sheets. Reinstated loss at bottom right and top right corner.