



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## Europam sive Celticam Veterem Sic describere conabar Abrahamus Ortelius

**Stock#:** 94128  
**Map Maker:** Jansson  
**Date:** 1640  
**Place:** Amsterdam  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 18.5 x 14 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

Striking example of the Mercator-Hondius map of Celtic Europe, based upon Abraham Ortelius' map, which appeared in his *Parergon*.

The map is perhaps most noteworthy for its many references to places named in classical times, including the following:

***Arctoa Regio sub Hyperborei et Pterophori (Arctic Regions):*** This Latin phrase can be roughly translated as "The Arctic Region under the Hyperboreans and the Wing-Bearers." The Hyperboreans were a mythical people described by the ancient Greeks who lived far to the North, beyond the North Wind (Boreas). The identity of the Pterophori, or "Wing-Bearers," is less clear, but they could represent another mythical tribe or possibly a reference to a specific animal or symbol associated with the region.

***Amalchium Mare Hecataeo:*** This refers to a sea named by Hecataeus (Amalchium Mare), who was an early Greek geographer. "Morimarusa a Cimbris vocatur" appears to suggest that this sea was also called "Morimarusa" by the Cimbri. The Cimbri were an ancient tribe who lived in the Jutland Peninsula in what is now Denmark. Morimarusa may derive from the language of the Cimbri.

***Fortunatae Insulae, sive Beatorum quae et Glessariae item Electrides (from Pliny):*** The Fortunate Islands, also known as the Isles of the Blessed, were a part of ancient Greek and Roman mythology, believed to be paradisiacal islands where the heroes of myth were sent to live out their immortality. This phrase suggests a connection with the Glessariae and Electrides islands, whose precise identity and location have been lost to history.



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***Insulae . . . Thule credita:*** Thule was the name given by ancient Greek and Roman geographers to the most northerly region then known. Its exact location is still a matter of debate among historians, with proposed locations including Iceland, Norway, and the Shetland Islands.

***Caledonius oceanus:*** The term "Caledonius Oceanus" refers to the ancient Roman name for what is now known as the North Sea and the waters surrounding Scotland. The Romans named this body of water after the Caledonii tribe, who were one of the tribal confederations of indigenous inhabitants of what is now Scotland.

**Detailed Condition:**