



Broadsheet engraved map, fine original hand-colour, a few marginal tears skilfully repaired, not affecting image.

FANTASY AND GEOGRAPHY

Veritable Representation Des Premieres Matieres Ou Elements avec leurs Directions & accidents dans leurs Tout, Decrits en Italien par Antoninus Saliba, recorige, mis en Latin par Corn: Iudae d' Anvers Nouvellement mis en Hollandois Par A.D W. Nieuwe Ende Alderneerstighste Onderscheydinghe der Elementen, Van Antoninus Saliba, Maleser in Veel Plaatsen verbeteret, Ende in't Latyn overgeset door Corn. de Iudae Antwerpaaren nu in Duyts Gebracht door A.D W. - Tot Haalem By Ambr. Schevenhuyse Voor aan in Zylstraat Caart Konstverkooper.

Author

[SALIBA, Antonio]

Publication date

[c1700].

Publisher

Ambr. Schevenhuyse,

Publication place

Haarlem,

Physical description

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Dimensions

580 by 530mm. (22.75 by 20.75 inches).

Notes

A rare separately-published world map combining geography with the supernatural.

This striking representation of the cosmos is composed of eight concentric rings. At the very core is the burning Inferno; next is the subterranean world with various examples of mining, underground rivers and lakes, and on the surface are windmills; the middle rings hosts the ocean and part of an earthly hemisphere; the following two rings shows celestial phenomena, including storms, rainbows and the twelve classical wind heads; the penultimate ring depicts the heavens with zodiac representations and notes on the historical appearance of comets; finally, the outer circle is a ring of fire populated by demons, phoenixes and salamanders.

Outside the main composition are four corner squares with representations and notes on the Sun, the Moon, and their eclipses. Flanking the title are two small insets of the Northern and the Southern hemispheres.

The map was originally compiled in 1582 by Antonio Saliba of Malta, a doctor of theology, philosophy and canon law, and engraved by Mario Cartaro of Naples. It included an explanatory text in Italian on either sides and contained nine rings. Saliba's design was re-issued by Cornelis de Jode after 1593 in Latin and without one ring, showing a derivation of de Jode's twin hemisphere world map as the cartographic portion of the engraving. The subsequent re-issues were all derived from de Jode: Paul de la Houve, Paris c1600; Jean Messenger, Paris c1640; Pierre Mariette, Paris c1650; Gerard Jollain, Paris c1681. The present example is a slightly smaller version of the above editions.

The work is based on the Aristotelian and Ptolemaic model for the universe, which placed the Earth in the centre surrounded by nine spheres for the heavens – the five planets, the sun, the moon, the stars, and the primum mobile. Saliba has departed from the classical representation of the Ptolemaic universe by concentrating the planets, the sun, the moon and the stars onto one circle, the penultimate, and by adding the ring of fire, in line with the Renaissance reverence for fire as a purifying tool.

We are aware of only one recorded example of the 1582 chart, which is housed at the Herzog August Bibliothek in Niedersachsen, Germany. There are no known examples of de Jode's c1593 edition; and there is only one recorded example of each of the four subsequent re-issues.

We are only able to trace eight institutional examples of the present map: National Library of Denmark; Leiden University; Athenaeum Library, Deventer; Munich State Library; University Library, Dresden; Darmstadt State Library; the Rothchild Collection, Waddesdon Manor; and the Science Museum, London.

Bibliography

Map Collectors Circle Vol. I, No. 26; Shirley, World 226; Peter Whitfield, *The Image of the World*, p.70.

Provenance

Price:

Inventory reference: 14287