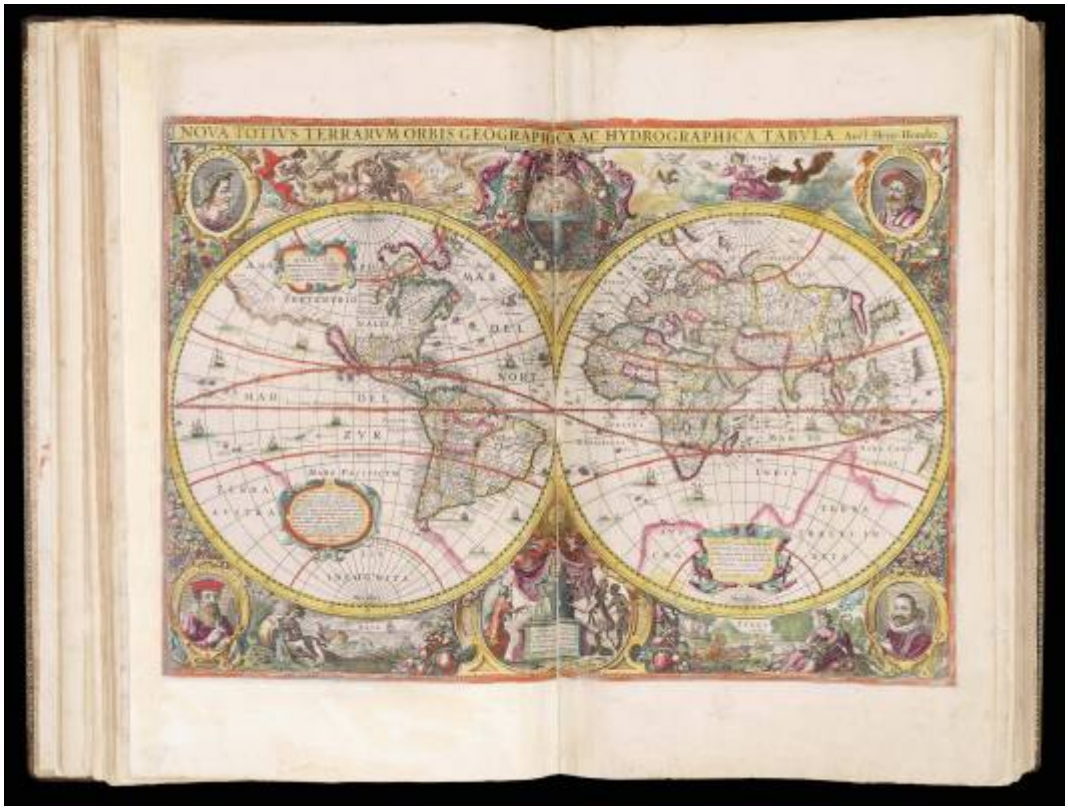


Two volumes, folio (515 by 330mm), engraved title-pages, with letterpress overslips over both titles and the imprint of volume one, and double-page engraved portrait of Mercator and Hondius, with contemporary hand-colour in full and heightened with silver, 196 double-page engraved maps in fine contemporary outline hand-colour, contemporary Oxford mauve morocco, with gilt panels and floral corner-pieces and central arabesque, spines decorated with gilt lozenges in ten compartments with nine raised bands, all edges gilt, original marbled pastedowns.

THE SCARCE ENGLISH EDITION OF THE MERCATOR/HONDIUS ATLAS IN ORIGINAL COLOUR

Atlas or A Geographicke description of the Regions. Counties and Kingdoms of the world, through Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, represented by New & Exact Maps. Translated by Henry Hexham, Quarter-master to the Regiment of Colonell Goring.

Author
MERCATOR, Gerard

Publication date
Anno 1636 – 1638.

Publisher
Henry Hondius and John Iohnson,

Publication place
Amsterdam,

Physical description
Two volumes, folio (515 by 330mm), engraved title-pages, with letterpress overslips over both titles and the imprint of volume one, and double-page engraved portrait of Mercator and Hondius, with

contemporary hand-colour in full and heightened with silver, 196 double-page engraved maps in fine contemporary outline hand-colour, contemporary Oxford mauve morocco, with gilt panels and floral corner-pieces and central arabesque, spines decorated with gilt lozenges in ten compartments with nine raised bands, all edges gilt, original marbled pastedowns.

Dimensions

Notes
The English edition of the Mercator-Hondius ‘Atlas’ contained some twenty new maps: eight in the first volume and twelve in the second. This dramatic revision was “greater than in any of the former editions of the atlas” (Koeman).

Mercator’s maps of England, Scotland, and Ireland have been corrected and improved with new vignettes, and several others bear the imprint of Henricus Hondius. In the second volume, one can see the rise of Janssonius within the publishing partnership, with many of the regional maps of France, and many that previously bore Henricus Hondius’ name, now bearing Jansonnius’ imprint.

The present work would remain the only folio atlas produced by the great publishing houses of Janssonius and Blaeu to include English text. The text was translated by Henry Hexham (1585?-1650), an English soldier and military writer who saw active service during the numerous Dutch campaigns of the early seventeenth century. It would appear that Hexham not only saw service, but also took up residence in Holland and became personally acquainted with both the then Prince of Orange, Prince Maurice of Nassau, and his brother Frederick Henry.

Bibliography
Koeman II, Me 41A and 41B (v2); van der Krogt 1:341.1a and 1:341.2B.

Provenance

Price: £250000

Inventory reference: 15140

© Daniel Crouch Rare Books Ltd | 2025