

Globe, 12 hand-coloured engraved paper gores, over a papier mâché and plaster sphere, housed within original brass case, with gilded edges to both hemispheres, with hook and eye, lined with two sets of 12 hand-coloured engraved celestial gores. Short split to globe in the southern hemisphere with early repair.

BALLON D’OR

Globus terrestris. juxta observationes Parisienses Regia Academia Scientiarum constructus.

Author
[HOMANN, Johann Baptist].

Publication date
[c.1702-1715].

Publisher
Opera loh. Bapt. Homanni Geographi,

Publication place
Nuremberg,

Physical description
Globe, 12 hand-coloured engraved paper gores, over a papier mâché and plaster sphere, housed within original brass case, with gilded edges to both hemispheres, with hook and eye, lined with two sets of 12 hand-coloured engraved celestial gores. Short split to globe in the southern hemisphere with early repair.

Dimensions
Diameter: 64mm (2.5 inches).

Notes

The earliest state, previously unrecorded, of Homann's only known pocket globe.

"The only other known pocket globes by Homann are of the same size and design as the one here offered, differing only in that the sphere comes apart at the equator to reveal a small pasteboard armillary inside. It seems unclear as to whether these were first published in 1705 or 1715 (Dekker & van der Krogt, p.89 and p.83 respectively)."

Biography

Johann Baptist Homann (1664-1724) was a German geographer and cartographer. He was educated as a Jesuit and destined for an ecclesiastical career, but converted to Protestantism and then worked as a notary in Nuremberg. He founded a publishing business there in 1702, and published his first atlas in 1707, becoming a member of the Academy of Sciences in Berlin in the same year. He collaborated with Johann Gabriel Doppelmayr on his book 'Kosmotheoros', which represented the solar system based on the Copernican system laid down by Christiaan Huygesn.

Homann was appointed Imperial Geographer to Charles VI in 1715, and produced his great work the following year, 'Grosser Atlas uber die ganze Welt'. Homann was well placed to take advantage of the decline of Dutch supremacy in cartographic publishing, and he became the most important map and atlas producer in Germany. After his death, the company was continued by his son Johann Christoph. When Johann Christoph died in 1730, the company continued under the name of Homann Heirs until 1848.

Geography

Homann is only known to have produced one pocket globe. Although the present example reflects an earlier issue than previously identified in that it does not include Homann's title as Imperial Geographer, which he received in 1715. The globe features cartography plotted from recent observations of the Académie Royale des Sciences in Paris. In addition to his collaboration with Doppelmayr, Homman published the gores of George Christoph Eimmart's globes in his atlases, which would have provided additional cartographic information. The equator is graduated and shows ecliptic and prime meridian. None of the Antarctic continent appears, nor is there a coast to northwestern Canada, or southeastern Australia. "New Zeeland" and "Diemans Land" are shown only in part, and California is shown as an island.

Astronomy

The celestial cartography appears on the inside of the brass case and is graduated in degrees, the ecliptic is graduated in days of the houses of the Zodiac, with sigils, and the constellations are brightly coloured and depicted by mythical beasts and figures and some objects, with names in Latin. A cartouche gives the stars and nebulae to six orders of magnitude. Two cartouches read Opera IO. B. HOMANNI S.C.M. Geographi Norinbergae and GLOBUS COELESTIS juxta Observationes Parisienses exhibitus.

Rarity

An apparently unique configuration of the first state (of three) of Homann's pocket globe.

Bibliography

Literature: Sumira 22; Dekker and van der Krogt, pl.20.

Provenance

Price: £60000

Inventory reference: 21780

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