



Italia : Atlas maior of 1665

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Joan Blaeu, Peter C. J. van der Krogt

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Book by Blaeu Joan Van der Krogt Peter

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208 pages

Présentation de l'éditeur

The Atlas maior, the cartographical masterpiece of the Baroque period, was brought out between 1662 and 1665 by the Amsterdam publisher Joan Blaeu, one of Holland's leading cartographers. Originally appearing in Latin, the atlas comprised 594 maps in II volumes which depicted the whole of the world as known to early modern Europe. It was the largest and most expensive book published during the 17th century. For more than 100 years it remained the definitive atlas of the world, and today is among the most sought-after and valuable antiquarian rarities. This reprinted edition in six volumes is based on the hand-colored, gold-highlighted copy in the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek in Vienna, thus ensuring the best possible detail and quality. Alongside Joan Blaeu's original commentaries on the individual maps, a new text by Peter van der Krogt explains the historical and cultural associations and introduces the reader to the fascinating world of early modern cartography. The volume entitled "Gallia" includes all 64 maps of France and the text is in French, English and German. "Anglia, Scotia et Hibernia" features all 58 maps of England and 58 maps of Scotland and Ireland and the text is in English, French and German. "Germania, Austria et Helvetia" includes all 97 maps of Germania, 20 maps of Austria and 7 maps of Switzerland and the text is in German, English and French. "Italia" features all 60 maps of Italy and the text is in Italian, English and German. "Belgica Regia et Belgica Foederata" includes all 63 maps of Belgium and the Netherlands and the text is in Dutch, French and English. Finally, "Hispania, Portugallia, Africa et America" features all 28 maps of Spain and Portugal, 13 maps of Africa and 23 maps of America and the text is in Spanish, English and Portuguese.

Biographie de l'auteur

Joan Blaeu (1596 Alkmaar - 1673 Amsterdam) was the son of Willem Blaeu and a leading Dutch cartographer. In 1620 he became a doctor of law and subsequently joined his father's workshop. In 1635 they published the two-volume *Novas Atlas* (*Theatrum orbis terrarum, sive, Atlas novus*). Joan and his brother Cornelius took over the workshop after their father had died in 1638. Joan became the official cartographer of the Dutch East India Company. Around 1649 he published a collection of Dutch city maps entitled *Tooneel der Steeden* (*Theater of Cities*). In 1651 he was voted into the Amsterdam council. In 1654 he published the first atlas of Scotland. In 1662 he reissued the atlas in II volumes, known as the *Atlas maior*. A cosmology was planned as his next project, but a fire destroyed the workshop in 1672.

Peter Van der Krogt, the leading expert in the field of Dutch atlases, is a collaborator on the Explorart Research Program for The History of Cartography at the University of Utrecht's Faculty of Geosciences. Since 1990 he has been working on Koeman's *Atlantes Neerlandici*, the carto-bibliography of atlases published in the Netherlands. His second project is the compilation, in cooperation with the Nijmegen University, of an illustrated and annotated catalogue of the Blaeu-Van der Hem Atlas, the most important multi-volume atlas preserved in the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, which was added to Unesco's "Memory of the World" register in 2004.

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