



The frontispiece to an 18th century celestial atlas

FLEISCHMANN, August Christian.

[The frontispiece of 'Mercurii Philosophici Firmamentum Firmianum'.]

Frankfurt, 1730. Fine original hand colour with gold highlights. 145 x 160mm.

£160

An allegorical scene, drawn by Fleischmann as the frontispiece to Corbinianus Thomas's celestial atlas, 'Mercurii Philosophici Firmamentum Firmianum'. It depicts Urania standing by a celestial globe, as Fame holds up a portrait of Leopold Anton von Firmian, Archbishop of Salzburg, to whom the atlas was dedicated. Under the globe are other surveying instruments. Behind, seated on a cloud are the gods Jupiter and Mercury. Corbinianus Thomas (1694-1767), a Benedictine monk, was Professor of Mathematics and Theology at the University of Salzburg. His star atlas was first published in 1730 at Frankfurt, with a second edition at Augsburg the following year. He used an odd system for nomenclature: Bayer Greek letter for the star, Roman numeral for the magnitude and Arabic numeral for the star catalogue reference.

KANAS: 7.7, 'beautiful illustrations'; WARNER, p.251.

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