



18th century map of the Sun

THOMAS, Corbinianus.  
*Systema Solis ex Observationibus P. Kircheri.*

Frankfurt, 1730. Original colour. 125 x 270mm.

£300

An unusual attempt to depict the surface of the Sun, based on the work of Athanasius Kircher. It was engraved by Johann Christoph Berndt for the celestial atlas '*Mercurii Philosophici Firmamentum Firmianum*', named for Thomas's patron, Leopold Anton von Firmian, Archbishop of Salzburg. 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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