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18TH CENTURY ILLUSTRATION OF THE CONSTELLATION PERSEUS

£250.00

Perseus. Caput Medusae.

Cartographer THOMAS, Corbinianus.

Date 1730

Stock #: 14324

Publication: Frankfurt, 1730. Original colour. 140 x 140mm.

Condition: A good example.

DESCRIPTION:

A chart of the constellation of Perseus, personified by the Greek hero, holding the head of the Gorgon Medusa by the hair. It was engraved by Johann Christoph Berndt for the celestial atlas 'Mercurii Philosphi 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: Greek letter for the star, Roman numeral for the magnitude and Arabic numeral for the star catalogue reference.