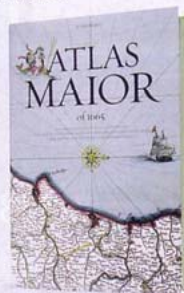


# ART BOOK



**DUTCH TREAT**  
Peking, from  
Joan Blaeu's  
landmark 1665  
world atlas.

**A**fter the first modern world atlas was published, in 1570, Dutch printers vied to produce ever more extravagant books filled with maps, illustrations, and lyrical descriptions of far-flung climes, from the New World to the Far East. The most lavish of all was Joan Blaeu's **Atlas Maior of 1665**, with eleven



volumes, 3,000 pages, and nearly 600 maps. It was the most expensive book in existence—the ideal possession for a prosperous trader with the whole world in his hand. In Taschen's sumptuous (and, thankfully, abridged) version (\$200), the most striking features—aside from the sheer size of the thing—are fanciful details like Pharaoh's army drowning in the Red Sea and the occasional terra incognita, including the vast blank of the American heartland.