



THE ATLAS MAIOR by *Joan Blaeu*
TASCHEN 2005 £100 HARDBACK

THIS IS the cartographical masterpiece of the Baroque. Published in 1662 and 1665 in eleven volumes, the atlas incorporating 594 maps was published with a latin text and depicted the whole of the world as known to early modern Europe. It was the largest and most expensive book to be published in the 17th century. For more than a century it was the definitive atlas of the world. Now it is one of the most sought-after and valuable antiquarian rarities. This bibliophile reprint is a single volume based on the hand-coloured copy with gilt highlights now in the Austrian National Library in Vienna. Alongside Joan Blaeu's original quotes there is a new text by Peter Van Der Krogt. A huge, handsomely produced work of art that contains 57 pages of Italy maps.