

Atlas Maior of 1665

by Joan Blaeu

(Taschen, \$200)

A few centuries ago, said *Men's Vogue*, a "prosperous trader" wouldn't be caught dead without a copy of Joan Blaeu's "lavish" *Atlas Maior*. At 11 volumes and 3,000 pages, this Dutch masterwork "was the most expensive book in existence," filled with elaborately illustrated maps and "lyrical descriptions of far-flung climes." Taschen has trimmed 2,400 pages from the experience, but the publisher's new reproduction is still "the ultimate gift for any map connoisseur," said Jerry Brotton in London's *Royal Academy Magazine*. Edited by the "world's leading expert" on the book that "defined global geography for a century," this version is both an elegant scholarly achievement and an object of "great beauty."

