



MIGHTY ATLAS Map enthusiasts will be enchanted by *Atlas Maior* (Taschen; \$200), a fascinating and artful look into notions of world geography in 17th-century Europe. When the eleven-volume original by the esteemed Dutch cartographer Joan Blaeu was completed in 1665, it was the most expensive book of its time. This modern reincarnation is a single massive tome, weighing seventeen pounds and illustrated with reproductions of Blaeu's 596 colorful engraved maps embellished with calligraphy, emblems and mythological iconography. The atlas covers Europe, Asia, Africa, the Americas and the Arctic and includes four foldout, poster-sized maps. English, French and German translations are printed in the new edition along with Blaeu's Latin text, and in the book's introduction, scholar Peter van der Krogt analyzes the masterpiece.

JOHN S. WOGAN