



THE Renaissance



MUSEUM of the
HISTORY of
SCIENCE

Globe Project

Globes in the Collection

Terrestrial Globe, by W. J. Blaeu, Netherlands, c. 1620 Inventory No. 55871

By the early 17th-century, the Netherlands had become a significant centre of scientific instrument making which went hand in hand with Dutch trading ambitions and seafaring adventurism.

Willem Janszoon Blaeu was the son of a wealthy salesman in the herring industry, but his interests lay more in Mathematics and Astronomy. He qualified as an instrument and globe maker and after a period working with the astronomer Tycho Brahe, he returned to the Netherlands to make country maps and world globes using his own printing works. In 1633 he was appointed map-maker of the Dutch East India Company.

[ref: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willem_Blaeu]



Globes were often made in pairs in the Early Modern period, celestial and terrestrial, and this is the terrestrial globe of a pair of globes made by Wilhelm Janszoon Blaeu (1571-1638), a celebrated Dutch cartographer and instrument-maker. The celestial globe is also on display at the museum alongside this one. The globe is signed, '... Guilhelmus Ianssonius Blaeu auctor et sculptor', and is dedicated to the Governors of Estates-General of the Netherlands; it is not dated. Like its companion celestial globe, it is made of plaster covered with paper gores. The gores are printed from engraved copper-plates and coloured and gilded by hand after they have been stuck on to the globe. The globes rotate within brass rings and rest on wooden stands.