Gerard de Jode (1509–1591) was a cartographer, engraver and publisher who lived and worked in Antwerp during the sixteenth century. He was born in Nijmegen, but moved to Antwerp, presumably to find more work. He was admitted into the Guild of St Luke in 1547, and received the right to print there in 1551. He printed several outstanding contemporary works including Giacomo Gastaldi’s world map in 1555, Jacob van Deventer’s map of Brabant in 1558, Abraham Ortelius’s eight sheet map of the world in 1564, and maps by Bartholomeus Musinus and Fernando Alvares Seco.

His most important work was the atlas ‘Speculum Orbis Terrarum’, first published in 1578 with text by Daniel Cellarius. It was designed to compete with Abraham Ortelius’ atlas, ‘Theatrum Orbis Terrarum’, which had been published eight years earlier. Ortelius had obtained a monopoly which prevented earlier publication, and used his influence to disrupt de Jode’s application for a royal privilege. By the time this was finally granted, seven years after the publication of the ‘Theatrum’, Ortelius’ work had become so popular that de Jode’s atlas did not sell well, despite the accuracy and clarity of his maps. The rivalry between them was heated – neither mention the other in their sources or discussions of contemporary cartographers.

His son Cornelis (1558-1600) continued his father’s publishing business after studying at Douai. He produced an enlarged edition of the ‘Speculum’ called ‘Speculum Orbis Terrae’ in 1593, which Gerard had been planning before his death. Either Cornelis or Gerard was the first person to make a globe following the geography of Mercator in the southern hemisphere; no copies of it survive to provide evidence. After Cornelis died, most of the de Jode stock was bought by Jean Baptist Vrients.

Although sales of de Jode’s work were less than ideal, the atlas was evidently held in high regard, with several contemporaries citing its importance alongside the atlases of Mercator and Ortelius. Few examples of either edition of the ‘Speculum’ have survived, making the maps within a rarity.
The de Jode family’s world map

A map of the world by Cornelis de Jode and published by his father, Gerard.

The map shows two views of the world. The main chart is a world map on a rectangular projection. Points of interest include the portrayal of the gigantic southern continent ‘Terra Australis’, believed to represent the rest of the landmass implied by the passage of Tierra del Fuego, reaching up to near New Guinea. The South American continent is disproportionately wide. The Strait of Anian separates America and Asia. The two small hemispheric maps to either side of the title show the western and eastern hemispheres on Roger Bacon’s circular projection.

The imprint at the lower edge states that the map was created by Cornelis de Jode in November 1589 while studying at the University of Douai, and published by his father Gerard de Jode.

The example appeared in the second edition of ‘Speculum orbis terrae’, published in 1593.
The first modern regional map of Scandinavia published in an atlas

A beautiful original colour example of Gerard de Jode’s map of Scandinavia. The map shows Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Finland, and includes part of Scotland, Iceland, and Russia. In the North and Baltic Seas are sea monsters and vessels.

The map is a reduction of a map by Lieven Algoet, an unlikely mapmaker who began his life as a courier to the great scholar Erasmus and eventually rose to become secretary to the chief minister of Mary of Austria. He produced a six sheet map in 1562, the only surviving example of which is in the Bibliothèque nationale de France. De Jode reduced it to a single sheet. In showing all the Nordic countries it has been considered “the first modern regional map of Scandinavia” (Ginsberg). Whale hunters are shown at the upper left, the main industry in the area at the time. The engraving was the work of the brothers Johannes and Lucas van Doetecum, the leading engravers working in Antwerp at the time, who produced many of the maps for de Jode’s atlas.
De Jode’s rare map of Luxembourg

The earliest map of the duchy of Luxembourg, showing the counties of La Roche, Durbuy, Vielsam, Chiny, Vandalen, St. John and Mandercheid.

The Duchy of Luxembourg had been newly incorporated into the Seventeen Provinces of the Holy Roman Empire by Charles V, in the Pragmatic Sanction of 1549. All the seventeen territories could now be inherited by the same Hapsburg heir.

By the time de Jode’s atlas was published, however, the Eighty Years War had begun and the northern provinces revolted against Spanish rule. The Duchy of Luxembourg was caught up in the war, but ultimately remained part of the Spanish Netherlands.
De Jode's map of Flanders is based on Gerard Mercator's nine sheet wall map of the province, published 1539–40. The map is decorated with bears holding flags with the crests of the old feudal domains of Flanders - the arms of Flanders and the House of Orange are at the upper margin.

When de Jode made his map Flanders was in turmoil. The iconoclasm in 1566 had begun in the province and it was one of the rebel territories who declared the foundation of the United Provinces in opposition to Spanish rule. The major city, Antwerp, did not fall until seven years after the publication of the first edition of the ‘Speculum’.

From the first (1578) edition of the ‘Speculum’. 
De Jode's rare map of Holland

The first edition of De Jode's map of Holland.

The map is an intermediate state between Karrow 25/4.10 and 25/4.11. The map is of the 1578 edition, however the cartouche bears the same text as the 1593 edition, albeit in different format.
De Jode’s rare map of Zeeland

6  JODE, Gerard de

Zelandia.

Publication:
Antwerp, 1578.

Description:
Double page engraved map.

Dimensions:
362 by 487 mm (14.25 by 19.25 inches).

References:
Van der Krogt 2600:32.

£1,800.00
De Jode’s rare map of Portugal

A detailed map of Portugal, oriented to the west.

**JOSE, Gerard de**

*Portugalliae Portugalliae Quae Olim Lusitania Vernando Alvaro Secco Autore Recens Descriptio.*

**Publication**
Antwerp, Gerard Smits, 1578.

**Description**
Double page engraved map.

**Dimensions**
315 by 525mm. (12.5 by 20.75 inches).

**References**
Koeman Jod II; Van der Krogt 32:01; Shirley T.JOD-1b.

£1,500.00
De Jode’s view of the classical world

The map is drawn from Ligorio’s map of 1561 and shows the Greek peninsula and archipelago with part of Turkey, naming many ancient and contemporary towns.

Pirro Ligorio (c.1512-1583) was a Neapolitan artist, architect and antiquarian active in Rome from the early 1530s. He was papal architect under Paul IV and Pius V, with a particular interest in Roman architecture. Ligorio pursued cartography later in life, designing several maps of Rome, Italian regions and other European countries. Allegedly, he found an enemy in fellow architect Giorgio Vasari, who refused to include his biography in his ‘Lives of the Artists’, hence leaving Ligorio’s life much less documented compared to his contemporaries.

From the 1578 edition of the ‘Speculum’.

8 JODE, Gerard de
Videbis totius Greciae limites Divisa per motes flumina & maria...

Publication
[Antwerp, 1578].

Description
Double page engraved map.

References
van der Krogt
£2,500.00
De Jode’s map of Russia

Rare. From the first edition of de Jode’s ‘Speculum Orbis Terrarum’. The majority of the maps were engraved by Johannes or Lucas van Deutecum.
De Jode’s rare map of the Holy Land

A fine example of de Jode’s rare map of the Holy Land.

De Jode based his map on the work of Tilemann Stolz, known as Tilemannus Stella, a student at the university of Wittenberg who produced a map of Palestine in 1552. No example of Stella’s work survives, but it was used by Abraham Ortelius and de Jode for their atlases.

With west at the top, the map includes part of the Mediterranean sea and shows the coast from Tirus, or modern-day Tyre in Lebanon, to Beersheba, with the Dead Sea in a crescent shape. On the foreground is a prospect of Jerusalem and two insets showing the Chapel of the Nativity in Bethlehem and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, both based upon Ferrando Bertelli’s ‘Disegni delle più illustri città e fortezze del mondo’ a series of engravings of famous cities and buildings published in 1568–9.

We have been unable to locate another example of the map on the market.

£5,000.00
De Jode's rare map of west Asia

The map shows the Holy Land and the Middle East from Turkey to Persia, including the Mediterranean Sea and Cyprus in the west, the Black and Caspian Seas in the north, and part of Egypt and the Persian Gulf in the south.

The map is based on Giacomo Gastaldi's three-sheet map of Asia; the westernmost part, which is covered by the present example, was first issued in 1559, whereas the following two were published in 1561. Later on, in 1565, Lafferi added two narrow sheets covering the area south of the Equator, thus including most of the Indonesian islands.

From the 1593 edition of the 'Speculum'.
De Jode’s rare map of Arabia

De Jode’s rare map of Arabia, reduced from Giacomo Gastaldi’s seminal work, the first modern map of the Arabian Peninsula.

Gastaldi revitalised European mapping of the Middle East, producing a two sheet wall map of Arabia and the Indian Ocean and creating a series of maps of the region for his 1548 edition of Ptolemy. Gastaldi used new sources to give a more accurate picture of the area, and his cartography was used as the basis for maps by Abraham Ortelius, Cornelius de Jode and Gerard Mercator in their respective atlases. Although not a slavish copy, de Jode’s map is by far the closest in style and content to the one published by Gastaldi in 1561.

Despite Gastaldi’s updated sources, parts of the map are still guesswork. De Jode has retained Gastaldi’s entirely fictional lake, “Stag Lago”, and the title cartouche mentions the kingdom of Prester John, a mythical Christian king.

From the 1593 edition of the ‘Speculum’.
De Jode’s rare map of Southeast Asia

De Jode based his survey on Giacomo Gastaldi’s 1561 map, which “provided the best and most inspired published rendering of the region in its day” (Karrow).

The map extends from the Indian peninsula through to China and Mongolia, showing a large part of Southeast Asia, including Sumatra, Malaysia, Brunei, the Moluccas, the Philippines, and Micronesia.

The cartography is derived from Spanish and Portuguese exploration, drawing on the voyages of Ferdinand Magellan, Álvaro de Saavedra and Ruy López de Villalobos. The Marianas Islands are labelled “Li Ladroni” after Magellan, who named them for the inhabitants’ propensity for stealing. Two other curious features are “Vulcan” Island and “April il’occhio”. Vulcan was reported in the Villalobos expedition as an erupting volcanic island, but Gastaldi and therefore de Jode has merged it with the island of Farfana, which was described as a high pointed rock. The phrase “April il’occhio” (open the eye) does not have a clear origin and may have been a cautionary phrase rather than a place. These two features mark the start of cartographic curiosity for navigational hazards in those waters, which would last until the early eighteenth century, even though ships routinely crossed those waters without any problems.

From the 1593 edition of the ‘Speculum’.
Cormorants and windcarts

A superb example of de Jode’s map of eastern Asia, produced especially for the 1593 edition of the ‘Speculum’.

The map is based upon the work of the Portuguese cartographer Luiz Jorge de Barbuda, whose map of China also appeared in the work of de Jode’s competitor, Abraham Ortelius, in 1584. The circular map is framed by elaborate strap-work and three vignettes of Chinese life, calculated to appeal to European interest. At the upper left corner is a fisherman working with the aid of a cormorant, a practice that continues in rural China; at the upper right there is a houseboat with a pen attached to the side. The lower right vignette is of a cart with a sail attached, the Chinese windcarts that fascinated European observers. The final image is of India, showing two people in Eastern dress worshipping a triple-headed god.
The earliest Dutch map of South America

A fine example of de Jode’s second map of South America.

The map shows part of Central America and the whole of South America, including a large landmass representing the Tierra del Fuego merging into Australia. It is one of the earliest maps to show the continent on its own, and the earliest Dutch map of South America.

The Southern American continent’s interior is densely detailed with many place names, annotations and images describing the territory, its people, and the flora and the fauna. Two vignettes show life at a cannibal’s campsite, including a human-based dinner, and a battle between indigenous people armed with bows and arrows and explorers armed with rifles. The seas are filled with several vessels, boats, monsters, and more annotations.

For this edition, Cornelius introduced several new maps, including the present example.
Novae Guineae Formus et Situs; Quivirae Regn[um], cum alij[s] versus Borealem

Publication
Antwerp, Arnold Corunx for the widow & heirs of Gerard de Jode, 1593.

Description
Two engraved maps on a double-page mapsheet, each 140 by 120mm.

References
Burden 82. For ‘Quivirae Regnum’, see Falk, Alaskan Maps, 1593-2, p.14, xix; Rey, Unveiling the Arctic, p.565 (Wagner, Northwest Coast of America, no. 171, p. 104). For ‘Novae Guinea’, see Allen, p.60-61; Harris, p. 125; NLA, p.92; Schilder 13, ill. p.269; Suarez, p.60-61; Tooley, Landmarks of Mapmaking, p.247; Tooley, Mapping of Australia, 385.

£18,000.00

The first printed map of Alaska and the first map to focus on “Australia”

A map sheet containing two seminal maps of the Pacific: the earliest map focused on Alaska, the Northwest and upper California, and “the first printed map of Australia” (Tooley).

In the map of North America the west coast is reasonably well delineated, and de Jode has chosen to include the mythical Strait of Anian separating America from Asia. The existence of a body of water between the two continents had been suggested but not proved when the map was made. Despite the channel between the continents, the figures populating America are outside tents and domed buildings which are distinctly Asian in appearance. It was widely believed that America was first settled by migrants from Asia, as confirmed by an inscription on the map comparing Native Americans to Tartars. De Jode obscures the lack of internal geographical knowledge of the continent with two large strategically placed cartouches.

At the top of the map are four imaginary islands. Mercator believed that four great rivers ran into a central whirlpool between these four islands. The magnetic north pole is marked by the edge of a black rock at the left edge of the map, which supposedly stood between the islands.

The map of Australasia shows part of New Guinea, and a speculative Australian coastline. New Guinea was named by the Spanish explorer Íñigo Ortiz de Retes in 1545, who thought that the landscape and people were similar to those of the Guinea region of Africa: the Latin text on New Guinea explains this. Australia is populated by a hunter chasing real and mythical beasts. It was still a largely unexplored part of the world, with only the reports of a few Spanish and Portuguese voyages to draw on. The text on New Guinea warns that observers are still not sure whether it is an island or continent, but calls Australia “a fifth continent”, indicating an awareness of its size.

The two maps are rare, with only one known state. They appeared only in the second and final edition of the ‘Speculum’ in 1593.

The two maps are rare, with only one known state. There were therefore comparatively few contemporary copies, and fewer survive.