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Australien oder Polynesien

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Map Maker: Anonymous
Date: 1795
Place: Nuremberg
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 12.25 x 9.75 inches
Price: \$ 375.00



Description:

The Western Pacific at the Close of the Eighteenth Century

Fine German map of Southeast Asia, the Philippines, Australia, Polynesia, and the surrounding waters.

While the area is densely populated with islands and toponyms, there are still many unfinished and uncharted coastlines, including Papua New Guinea, New Britain, New Georgia, New Caledonia, and Australia itself.

A partial shore is tucked south of New Britain. This is the Louisiade Archipelago, which was sighted by Louis-Antoine de Bougainville in 1768. It was possibly sighted earlier, however, by Chinese and Malay sailors.

The map includes the findings of all three of Cook's voyages, including a complete outline of New Zealand, the east coast of Australia, and the Sandwich Islands, now known as Hawai'i.

The outline of Australia is a mixture of Dutch encounters, the toponyms of Cook's first voyage, and the findings of the nascent penal colony near Port Jackson and Botany Bay. The continent is called New Holland, in reference to the Dutch, and Ulimaroa. The latter name was bestowed on the landmass by Swedish geographer Daniel Djurberg in 1776. It is a misunderstood use of a Māori word mentioned in Hawkesworth's account of Cook's first voyage. It actually refers to Grand Terre, the largest island of New Caledonia.



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The Dutch Encounter with Australia

Whereas the Portuguese were the first Europeans to tap the lucrative resources of the East Indies, other European powers quickly joined the race. The VOC, founded in 1602, was based in Amsterdam with a local headquarters in Batavia (Jakarta).

Dutch ships roved the waters of the Indian Ocean. A few crossed the sea at southern latitudes, taking advantage of the winds of the roaring forties, which put them on a collision course with the continent of Australia, then still unknown to Europeans. These ships were following the Brouwer Route to Jakarta, so-called because it was explored in 1611 by Hendrick Brouwer. Less than five years later, it was named the prescribed route from the Cape of Good Hope to Java and following the route was compulsory for all VOC ships, unless they were destined directly for China and Ceylon, rather than Batavia.

Ships were supposed to turn north when they sighted Amsterdam Island or St. Paul Island. However, the methods for calculating longitude in the seventeenth century were imprecise and some ships continued east, eventually running afoul of the Australian coast.

The first of these to contact West Australia was the *Eendracht* in 1616, which was blown off course en route to the East Indies. It was commanded by Dirk Hartog and Hartog's landing was the first recorded European landing on the western coast of Australia. It is marked here with *Dirk Hartogs I. and Eintrachts Land enteckt 1615*. The crew commemorated their discovery by erecting a post with a pewter dish inscribed with their ship's information—the earliest physical record that historians have of any European landing in Australia.

Other voyages also sighted or landed in Western Australia in the 1620s. This map references that of Gerrit Fredericksz De Wit in 1628 (here erroneously 1616), of the *Leeuwin* in 1622 (*Löwensland*), and of Pieter Nuyts, who commanded the *Gulden Zeepaert* along the southern coast in 1627 (here erroneously 1727).

By the 1640s, the officials of the VOC were eager to know the extent of the south lands and if they included any useful resources or willing trading partners. They appointed Abel Tasman to pursue these questions. Tasman's 1642-43 voyage was the first to circumnavigate the whole of the Australasia region, thus proving it was a separate entity unconnected from a mythical, and massive, southern continent. He surveyed the south coast of Tasmania, which he called Van Diemens Land after the VOC governor of Batavia, and the western coast of New Zealand, as well as the Tonga and Fiji Archipelagos. While important for geography, his voyage was nevertheless a disappointment to the VOC, as it netted no new commercial opportunities.

His second voyage proved even less successful. He was supposed to find a passage south of New Guinea to



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the east coast of Australia, but he missed the strait and instead thought it a bay. He did, however, more fully chart Australia's northern coastline, which had only been sporadically encountered to that point. Previously, information for the north coast, especially for portions of the coasts in what it today Queensland, Australia, come from the voyage of the Dutch vessel *Duyfken* in 1605-06. Under the command of Willem Janszoon, the *Duyfken* explored the eastern shore of the Gulf of Carpentaria, just below the Cape York Peninsula, a venture which was famously the first recorded European contact with Australia. Also here is the sighting of the northern coast by the *Arnhem* in 1623 (here erroneously 1618).

Detailed Condition: