



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
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[Alaska to San Diego and San Qunitin, British Columbia] A Chart Shewing Part of the Coast of N.W. America, with the Tracks of His Majesty's Sloop Discovery and Armed Tender Chatham . . . (First Modern Map of the West Coast of North America)

Stock#: 102067
Map Maker: Vancouver
Date: 1798
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 23.5 x 31 inches
Price: \$ 2,800.00



Description:

The Modern Map of the West Coast of North America -- Vancouver Redraws the Pacific Northwest

Fine example of Vancouver's chart of the west coast of North America, extending from Kodiak Island and Cook Inlet in Alaska to San Diego, San Quintin, and Baja California.

The chart was part of the atlas which accompanied Vancouver's official account of his epic voyage, one of his last acts. The chart is dated May 1, 1798, the same month of Vancouver's death. His brother finished the text, which was published later that year.

This is the first large-format chart of the west coast of North America to show the region in such detail, and to be based on scientific surveys. The chart provides a fine overview of the portions of the coasts



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visited by Vancouver, along with topographical observations, the locations Spanish Missions in Upper California and Baja California, soundings in Southern California near San Diego, Santa Barbara and the Channel Islands. Vancouver charts his very early entrance into San Francisco Bay (which had been discovered only about 20 years earlier by Spanish Missionaries) and gives a nice overview of one of the earliest attempts to chart the waters of Puget Sound and the Straits of Juan de Fuca.

The chart is based on Vancouver's own surveys in 1791, 1792, and 1793. The tracks of the ships, *Discovery* and *Chatham*, are marked with dotted lines. Mountains and other features visible from shore are included, showing how rugged the territory is.

Vancouver had sailed with Cook on his second expedition, when Cook's crew crossed the Antarctic Circle three times. He was also an officer on the third Cook voyage, which sought the Northwest Passage and made initial surveys of Alaska. Vancouver built on these in this chart, as well as used information gathered from the Russians, who traded and trapped fur as far south as California, and Spanish, with their network of missions marked in California.

Vancouver also added original material from his surveys, particularly around Clarence's Strait (Clarence Strait) and what is today the Inside Passage. His crews were also responsible for the detailed surveys of Vancouver Island, still here labeled with its original European name of Quadra and Vancouver Island, of Puget Sound, named for one of Vancouver's officers, and of the mouth of the Columbia River. The chart captures the last great surveying expedition of the Pacific in the eighteenth century.

The Nootka Sound Crisis

Geopolitical events overtook the planning of Vancouver's voyage. Instead of solely a surveying expedition, which was mainly focused on finding possible entrances for a Northwest Passage, the Admiralty ordered Vancouver to check Spanish expansion in the Pacific Northwest, which itself was a response to Russian ships coming farther down the coast from Alaska.

While on a 1788 expedition, the Spanish heard that the Russians had their sights set on Nootka Sound, a port the Spanish had visited and claimed. Spanish captains Martínez and Haro were supposed to ensure that Nootka Sound stayed in Spanish hands. They found that the area was already visited by British ships participating in the fur trade; indeed, when they arrived there were already two American ships and one British ship in the Sound. The latter, the *Iphigenia*, was seized and then released several days later, with orders to flee. Another vessel, the *North West America*, was also seized and turned into a Spanish ship, the *Santa Gertrudis la Magna*, which José María Narváez used to explore the Juan de Fuca Strait. Martinez



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continued to challenge non-Spanish ships and commanders in the summer of 1789.

Over the next two years, and after a change in regime that installed Don Juan Francisco de la Bodega y Quadra, the Spanish built up a base at Nootka Sound, forming the first European settlement in what is today British Columbia. In summer 1790, Salvador Fidalgo was sent north to claim more Alaskan land for Spain. At the same time, Manuel Quimper was sent south from Nootka; he followed the route of Narváez into the Juan de Fuca Strait and explored among the San Juan Islands. Francisco de Eliza was the next to investigate the Juan de Fuca Strait, in 1791. He was accompanied in the *San Carlos* by Narváez in the *Santa Saturnina*. They explored the Strait of Georgia.

While the Spanish base at Nootka had proven useful for exploration, it was still controversial. Alejandro Malaspina, on his global voyage, visited Nootka for a month; he regained the trust of a local leader, Maquinna, and was promised that the Spanish had the rightful claim to land at Nootka Sound. In mid-1792, Bodega y Quadra arrived in Nootka to negotiate the second Nootka Convention; the British sent George Vancouver.

Also in 1792, Malaspina sent two of his officers, Dionisio Alcalá Galiano and Cayetano Valdés y Flores, to survey Vancouver Island in the goletas *Sutil* and *Mexicana*. They became the first Europeans to circumnavigate Vancouver Island. En route, they met Vancouver, who was also then surveying in the area. In the same year, Jacinto Caamaño surveyed the southern coast of the island; his maps were shared with the British, who adopted many of his Spanish place names.

Vancouver and Bodega y Quadra entered into negotiations. The two met for several weeks but could not decide on boundaries and settlements; they referred the matter back to diplomats in Europe, but only after agreeing to meet again, at the end of 1792, in Monterey, California. It was from Monterey that Broughton returned to England with the manuscript map that was the base for this map; the manuscript is now held at the UK Hydrographic Office Archives in Taunton.

As for the naming of Vancouver Island, the commander wrote of the event in a letter to the Admiralty. He explains that Quadra requested that it be named for both of them, in honor of their diplomatic relations, he suggested that Vancouver "name some port or Island after us both, in commemoration of our meeting and the friendly intercourse that on that occasion had taken place...and conceiving no place more eligible than the place of our meeting, I have therefore named this land...the Island of Quadra and Vancouver" (Lamb, 247). The dropping of Quadra from the name took place as the British gained more power in the area. For example, by 1824 the Hudson's Bay Company regularly referred to the island as just Vancouver Island.



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Detailed Condition:

Engraving on 18th-century paper. Very minor toning as shown.