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Mappemonde ou Carte Reduite Des Parties Connues Du Globe Pour servir au Voyage de La Perouse 1785, 85, 87 et 88.

Stock#: 20142
Map Maker: La Perouse
Date: 1797
Place: Paris
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 36 x 23 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The World Map of France's Most Famous Lost Explorer

Fine example of a world map on a Mercator projection. It is centered on the Pacific, the main focus of Jean-Francois de Galaup, Comte de La Perouse's voyage.

The map was compiled from the papers of, and featured in the voyage atlas of, La Perouse, France's most famous explorer to the late-eighteenth century. When this map was published, Le Perouse had been dead for nearly a decade, his ships and crew mysteriously lost in the Pacific.

The map highlights La Perouse's voyage with a track that crisscrosses the oceans. It proceeds from France, around Cape Horn, then to Hawai'i and the Northwest Coast of America, south to Oregon, San Francisco and Monterey, then across the Pacific Ocean to Canton. He then traveled through the Philippines to the Sea of Japan and the northern Japanese islands and to Kamchatka. From Kamchatka, La Perouse proceeded to the South Pacific and finally to Port Jackson and Botany Bay. Shortly thereafter he met his untimely death.

The map has benefited from the voyage of La Perouse, who sent journals and charts back to France several times during his journey. His observations resulted in refined charting of the Pacific Northwest, Northeast Asia, Australia, and the western Pacific islands. La Perouse's voyage was second only to the voyages of James Cook in their impact on cartographic knowledge and discoveries in the Pacific Ocean in the second half of the eighteenth century.

While La Perouse dispelled some myths, like Gamaland in the North Pacific, others remain. The grandest



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of these is the long-sought Northwest Passage. The northernmost coasts in the world remain unfinished here, in Alaska, Greenland, and Nouvelle Zelme. There are also open outlets in Hudson's Bay, suggesting an inland waterway west.

There is no southern continent, another myth that had been dispensed with by the end of the eighteenth-century. However, that empty space called for more exploration. The southernmost islands included here are the Sandwich Islands, today South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, which had been visited by Cook in 1775 on his second voyage.

In the southern Indian Ocean are *I. Kerguelen ou la Desolation*. These were charted by Yves-Joseph de Kerguelen-Trémarec in 1772. He returned a year later and left evidence of the French claim to the island. Cook also stopped there on his third voyage.

Detailed Condition: