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[St. Lawrence Island, Alaska] Карта Острова св: Лаврентия исправленная колониальными мореходами [Map of the Island of St. Lawrence corrected by the colonial sailors.]

Stock#: 59917
Map Maker: Tebenkov
Date: 1849
Place: Sitka
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 21.5 x 17.5 inches
Price: \$ 3,500.00



Description:

The George Davidson Copy of Tebenkov's Map of St. Lawrence Island, Alaska

Rare and remarkable map of St. Lawrence Island Alaska, compiled by Mikhail Dmitrievich Tebenkov, who in 1849 was serving as the Governor of American Russia.

Mikhail Dmitrievich Tebenkov (1802-1872) joined the Russian American Company in 1825. He spent the next 20 years exploring Alaska and the contiguous parts of Russia. By 1845, he became the director of the Russian American Company and the governor of Russian America; a post he would hold until 1850. While serving as governor, he undertook an ambitious survey of the coastal regions of northwest coast of America.

Using information gleaned from this survey and data collected from unpublished Russian expeditions in the prior decades, he embarked on an ambitious publication project in Novoarkhangelsk (now Sitka), with maps engraved either by Grigory Klimovich Terentiev, an Alaskan native with mixed Russian and Inuit roots or another local mapmaker of mixed Russian and Inuit heritage, Mikhail Kadin (according to George Davidson).

Ladd-Mocarski described Tebenkov as:



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An outstanding and painstaking work by a naval officer and hydrographer who spent 25 years in Alaska and the North Pacific, reaching the highest position in the Russian-American colonies, that of Chief Administrator.

The map appeared in Tebenkov's *Atlas sieverozapadnykh beregov Ameriki ot Beringova proliva do mysy Korrientes I ostrovov Alleutskikh s prisovokupleniem nekotorykh mest severovostochnogo berega Azii*. [Atlas of the northwest coasts of America from Bering Strait to Cape Corrientes and the Aleutian Islands, with several sheets on the Northeast Coast of Asia].

Carl Wheat states that "the magnificently engraved and beautifully presented maps of Tebenkov's celebrated atlas are said to have been engraved at Sitka by native Alaskan Indians."

St. Lawrence Island was first visited by Vitus Bering on August 10, 1728, becoming the first confirmed European landfall in what would become Alaska. Many believe St. Lawrence Island is one of the last remaining non-submerged portions of the land bridge which joined Asia with North America during the Pleistocene period. It has been inhabited intermittently for the past 2,000 years by Yupik Eskimos. The island's population shows cultural links with indigenous peoples in both Asia and Alaska.

Rarity

This is the first example of the map we have ever seen on the market.

Provenance:

George Davidson copy, purchased by the prior owner from Warren Howell in the early 1970s and acquired by our firm in November 2018.

Davidson acquired Russian charts in Sitka in 1867. His interactions with Russian geographers and his use of Tebenkov's charts is covered in Professor William Forrest King's Ph.D. dissertation defended in 1973.

Detailed Condition:

Several repaired tears.