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(Hudson Straits) Detroit D'Hudson Amer. Sept. No. 18

Stock#: 96886
Map Maker: Vandermaelen
Date: 1825
Place: Brussels
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 22 x 18.5 inches
Price: \$ 275.00



Description:

Fascinating map focused on the Hudson Strait and environs, published in the middle of the 1820s.

The Hudson Strait, a historically significant and geographically intricate passage, forms the primary waterway to Hudson Bay, a colossal body of water lying in the heart of Canada.

The drive to discover a Northwest Passage, a direct maritime route from Europe to Asia via North America's Arctic coastline, fuelled much of the exploration in the Hudson Strait and its environs. The potential economic benefits of finding such a route, coupled with the allure of uncharted territories, provided the impetus for many expeditions from the 16th century onward.

The present map provides both an up to date understanding of the region and a compilation of the discoveries of some of the earliest European exploratory missions.

- **Luke Fox's Discoveries (1631):** The map highlights the lands discovered by the English explorer Luke Fox. His journey was part of the larger English quest for the Northwest Passage. While he failed in finding the passage, his meticulous recordings expanded European knowledge of the Arctic regions.
- **Esquimaux Lands:** By showing the Esquimaux (now called Inuit) lands, the map acknowledges the indigenous inhabitants of the region. Their profound understanding of the terrains and waters

Drawer Ref: Vandermaelen
(Misc. 10)

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played an unsung but crucial role in assisting European explorers.

- **Strait Discoveries:** Both the **Davis Strait**, revealed by John Davis in 1585, and the **Frobisher Strait**, named after Sir Martin Frobisher's journey in 1576, are displayed. Contrary to earlier beliefs, these are not straits but rather expansive bays of Baffin Island.
- **Digges Islands:** The western section of the map brings attention to the Digges Islands, encountered by Henry Hudson in 1616. These islands commemorate Sir Dudley Digges, a friend of the famed explorer Henry Hudson. Although not an explorer himself, Digges' financial ventures in the Virginia Company of London and his support for Hudson's voyages etched his name on the map, quite literally.

While the aforementioned discoveries predate the 19th century, they laid the groundwork for the heightened exploration in the first half of the 19th Century. The promise of the Northwest Passage reignited interest in the region.

During this time, multiple expeditions were launched. Sir John Ross and William Parry, both naval officers, made significant contributions in the early 19th century. Their voyages illuminated much of the Arctic's geography and were foundational for subsequent missions.

Detailed Condition: