



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

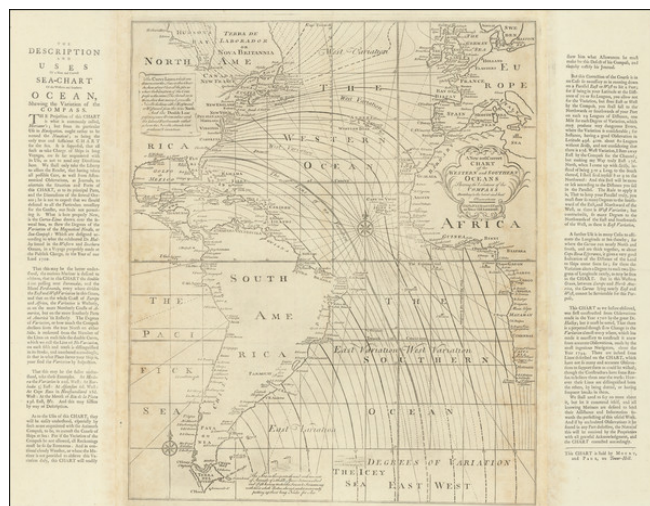
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[Sir Edmund Halley's Observations on the Variation of the Compass] A New and Correct Chart of the Western and Southern Oceans Shewing the Variations of the Compass According to the latest and best Observations [with text:] The Description and Uses Of A New and Correct Sea-Chart of the Western and Southern Ocean, Shewing the Variation of the Compass

Stock#: 98400
Map Maker: Halley / Mount & Page
Date: 1763 circa
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 29.25 x 22.75 inches (including marginal text blocks)
Price: \$ 2,800.00



Description:

Halley's Isogonic Chart of the Atlantic Ocean

Important chart of the Atlantic Ocean, illustrating Edmund Halley's discoveries regarding magnetic variation of the compass in 1700-01 and revised by new observations in 1744.

Nice example of Sir Edmund Halley's famed Isogonic Map of the Atlantic, which was the first chart to show the magnetic variations of the compass. As there is a perpetual slow change in the variation, this state has been updated through 1744. The chart includes two side panels of text with instructions on how to use the chart.

Issued by the London firm of Mount & Page, the boldly engraved chart shows the Atlantic Coasts of the Americas, Europe and Africa and has colorful place names such as "Wild Brazile" and "The Icey Sea.?"

Edmund Halley was one of the most celebrated English Scientists of his time and is perhaps best known for the discovery of the famous comet that bears his name. From 1698-1700 he sailed on the *H.M.S. Paramore* on a voyage through the North and South Atlantic gathering the earliest systematic recordings of the magnetic variations of the compass.



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The present sea chart appeared in Mount & Page's *English Pilot*, one of the most important and commercially successful sea atlases of the 18th Century. The map and accompanying texts were intended to provide a mariners with a basic understanding of magnetic variance, as a means of helping understand the principal while taking practical measurements at sea.

Edmund Halley and Magnetic Variation

Edmund Halley's role in the development of navigational charts in the early 18th century was pivotal, specifically in relation to the understanding and mapping of magnetic variation. The text describes the findings of Halley concerning the variation of the compass, which is the difference between the magnetic north to which a compass points and the true north.

Halley is celebrated for his scientific expedition funded by the British government in 1700, during which he gathered data on the magnetic variation in the Atlantic Ocean. The text refers to the "Curve-Lines drawn over the several Seas," which are isogonic lines, also known as *Halleyan* lines, indicating areas of equal magnetic variation on the chart. These lines were revolutionary at the time and greatly improved the accuracy of navigation at sea.

His voyage aboard the HMS *Paramour* was particularly aimed at understanding the laws governing the magnetic compass, which was an essential tool for maritime navigation. By systematically measuring the magnetic variation across different points in the oceans, Halley was able to produce the first chart of its kind in 1701, depicting the lines of equal magnetic variation. This was a crucial step forward in navigation because it allowed seafarers to correct their compass readings and determine their true heading more accurately.

Halley's chart and his method of depicting magnetic variation were significant discoveries. They not only enhanced the safety and efficiency of sea travel but also contributed to the broader scientific understanding of the Earth's magnetic field. His work laid the foundation for geomagnetism as a scientific study and remains a critical aspect of navigation and Earth sciences to this day.

The text on the map notes:

The Curve Lines which are drawn over the Seas in this Chart, do shew at one View all the places where the Variation of the Compass is the same; The Numbers to them shew how many degrees the



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*Needle declines either Eastward. or Westward from the true North; And the Double Line passing
near Bermudas and the Island Fardinando is that where the Needle stands true without Variation.*

Detailed Condition:

Toning where folded.