



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

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**A New Chart of the World on Wright's or Mercator's Projection in which are Exhibited
all the parts hitherto Explored or discovered with the Tracks of the British
Circumnavigators Byron, Wallis, Carteret and Cook, &c. . . . 1794**

Stock#: 32014
Map Maker: Laurie & Whittle
Date: 1794
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 36 x 28.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Laurie & Whittle's Fine World Map—First State!

Scarce first state of Laurie & Whittle's two-sheet map of the world, showing the tracks of the recent British circumnavigations and filled with the latest details from European expeditions around the world.

The world map, on a Mercator projection, shows an empty Antarctic. The Arctic, by contrast, includes some tentative coastlines. Near a well-rendered Spitsbergen are two points—Purchass Point and “Gillis’s Land seen in 1707”—that are connected by a shadowy, hypothetical shore. Greenland is connected to Baffin Bay via land to the north, an interpretation of the ice that connected the landmasses.

Northern Greenland continues towards the west with a note, “Continuation of the Coast according to the Hypothesis of Green, Forster and several others.” This refers to the geographic work of John Green and Georg Forster. The former was a sharp-witted mapmaker and the latter the naturalist who accompanied James Cook on his second voyage.

In additions to sources including “a Japanese map” for the north coast of North America and the Russians for the far northeast of Asia, the map includes two northern voyages. The first, tracing the perimeter of Baffin’s Bay, is that of William Baffin in 1616. Along with Robert Bylot, Baffin searched for the Northwest Passage in 1615 and 1616. In 1615, they concluded that Hudson’s Bay was enclosed and did not lead to



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the Pacific. In 1616 they returned, circling Baffin's Bay and deciding there was no outlet. It was not until Edward Parry sailed through Lancaster Sound two hundred years later that this information would be challenged.

The other ship's track is that of the *Racehorse* to Spitsbergen. Commander Constantine Phipps, the second Baron Mulgrave, took the *Racehorse* and the *Carcass* north on the British Naval North Polar Expedition in 1773. They were thwarted by impenetrable ice just north of 80°N, as noted on this map.

Most of the inland areas on the map are studded with lakes and threaded with rivers and mountains ranges. In North America, the track of Alexander Mackenzie is shown. He is known for being the first person to accomplish an east-to-west crossing on North America north of Mexico in 1793, a year before this map was published. Here, his 1789 expedition is depicted. Working for the North West Company, Mackenzie followed rivers flowing northwest and indigenous reports. Although hoping to connect to the Pacific, he instead traced a river now named for him to the Arctic Ocean.

Australia, or New Holland, is shown as connected to Van Diemen's Land; it would not be proven to be an island until Matthew Flinders and George Bass circumnavigated the island, now called Tasmania, in 1798-9. The west coast is riddled with the encounters of Dutch and English navigators, including William Dampier (with the erroneous year of 1688 included). The east coast is covered in British toponyms thanks to the first voyage of James Cook.

As explained in the title cartouche, this map features the tracks of a specific set of explorers: Byron, Wallis, Carteret, and Cook. After the close of the Seven Years' War, Britain found itself with an expanded empire gained at the expense of France. They pushed this advantage into the Pacific, sending a series of voyages to probe the South Seas.

First out was Byron, who completed the fastest circumnavigation to date in 1764-6. Upon his return, his ship, HMS *Dolphin*, was turned around and sent out again, this time commanded by Samuel Wallis and accompanied by Philip Carteret, a veteran of the Byron expedition, in HMS *Swallow*. The ships were separated near Cape Horn, tracing separate tracks across the world's largest ocean. Wallis and the *Dolphin* were the first Europeans to encounter Tahiti; they returned to England just in time to report this find to James Cook, who was fitting out to observe the Transit of Venus somewhere in the South Seas. All three of Cook's voyages are included here.

Rarity



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The first edition of this map is quite scarce. The later edition, which adds the track of La Perouse and a reference to La Perouse in the title, appears with greater frequency.

Detailed Condition:

Minor soiling to the left of the title cartouche and a few minor fold splits, archivally repaired on verso.
Minor offsetting.