



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## Cote Nord-Oest De L'Amerique Reconne Par Le Cape. Vancouver IVe. Partie. . . (Queen Charlotte's Island, Prince Rupert and Vicinity)

**Stock#:** 37557  
**Map Maker:** Vancouver  
**Date:** 1797  
**Place:** Paris  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 29 x 24 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

Striking example of the 4th sheet from George Vancouver's charting of the West Coast of North America, from his seminal voyage of exploration along the Northwest Coast of America.

The present map extends from just south of Juneau Alaska to the Hakai Protected area and Hunter Island. It includes the southern part of Alaska's Alexander Archipelago and British Columbia's Queen Charlotte Islands, as well as the adjacent mainland coast, including the Inside Passage.

Importantly, Vancouver's chart is the first printed accurate general map of this region. While previous explorers such as Cook and Perez had passed through this stretch of coastline, Vancouver was the first to map it in detail, and to high scientific standards. Vancouver charted this region during the spring and summer of 1793.

### Captain George Vancouver & the Mapping the Pacific Coast of North America



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George Vancouver (1757-98) was one of the most important explorers of the 18th Century. He notably served on Cook's Third Voyage, and so gained valuable experience exploring and mapping the Pacific Northwest. In 1791, he was chosen to captain the *HMS Discovery*, with a mission to discover and chart the vast areas of the Pacific that were still unknown. The expedition included the esteemed botanist Archibald Menzies.

The *HMS Discovery* and its companion ship, *HMS Chatham*, left England in 1791 and travelled to Cape Town, Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti, and China, all the while collecting botanical samples and surveying coastlines. Sailing across the Pacific to North America, Vancouver followed the coasts of Oregon and Washington northward.

Vancouver entered the Strait of Juan de Fuca, between Vancouver Island and the Washington's Olympic Peninsula, in April 1792. Vancouver proceeded to survey every inlet and outlet on the west coast of the mainland, all the way north to Alaska. Most of this work was done employing modern techniques of triangulated surveys. As noted on the present map, many of the charts were drafted by Vancouver's chief hydrographer, Lieutenant Edward Roberts.

Many important features in the Pacific Northwest were named by Vancouver, including the volcanoes Mounts Ranier, Baker, Hood and St. Helen's, and the bodies of water of Puget Sound, Burrard Inlet and Howe Sound. Vancouver's expedition became the first Europeans to encounter the sites of the future cities of Seattle and Vancouver, B.C.

In June 1792, off of Point Grey (Vancouver, B.C.), the Vancouver's expedition met with the Spanish expedition led by Dionisio Alcalá Galiano and Cayetano Valdés y Flores. In spite of the tensions that existed between Britain and Spain, the enlightened Vancouver, who placed scientific discovery above nationalism, befriended the Spaniards. The two parties exchanged maps and information, whereupon Vancouver was "mortified" to learn that the Spanish already possessed a crude chart of the Strait of Georgia based on the exploratory voyage of José María Narváez in 1791. For three weeks the parties cooperatively explored the Georgia Strait and the Discovery Islands.

Vancouver then sailed to Nootka Sound (on the west coast of Vancouver Island), which was already a major fur-trading center, disputed between Britain and Spain. There Vancouver met the great Spanish explorer, Juan Francisco Bodega y Quadra. While diplomacy over the control of Nootka was inconclusive, Vancouver and Quadra shared charts and information and proved the insularity of Vancouver Island. Vancouver also acquired a copy of the American Captain Robert Gray's pioneering chart of the lower Columbia River.



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Vancouver then sailed south down towards Oregon. He dispatched Lieutenant William Robert Broughton to explore the Columbia River. Broughton progressed as far as the Columbia River Gorge, producing a fine map, aspects of which are embraced by the present chart.

Vancouver continued south along the coast of Spanish Alta California, visiting Chumash villages at Point Conception and San Buenventura. Vancouver then wintered in the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii), and worked towards creating what would become the first complete chart of the islands.

In the spring of 1793, Vancouver returned to British Columbia and sailed northwards, all the while conducting surveys of the treacherous Inland Passage. He arrived at Alaska's Alexander Archipelago, charting and circumnavigating Prince of Wales Island, Revillagigedo Island and mapping parts of the coasts of Mitkof, Zarembo, Etolin, Wrangell, Kuiu and Kupreanof Islands. He then sailed south to California, before, once again, wintering in Hawaii.

In 1794, Vancouver sailed far north to Cook Inlet, the northernmost point of his exploration, and from there followed the coast southwards. He then charted the east coasts of Chichagof and Baranof Islands, circumnavigated Admiralty Island, explored to the head of Lynn Canal, and charted the rest of Kuiu Island and nearly all of Kupreanof Island. Vancouver then set sail for Great Britain by way of Cape Horn, returning to England in September 1795, thus completing a global circumnavigation.

Vancouver's account of the voyage, along with an atlas of his charts was first published in London in 1797. Interest in Vancouver's discoveries was intense across Europe and America, and various editions of his charts were issued. The present chart is a rare early French edition, masterfully engraved in Paris by Alexandre Blondeau. The quality of the engraving and the paper used for this edition is noticeably superior that that employed for the 1797 London edition.

**Detailed Condition:**

Minor soiling and foxing.