



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

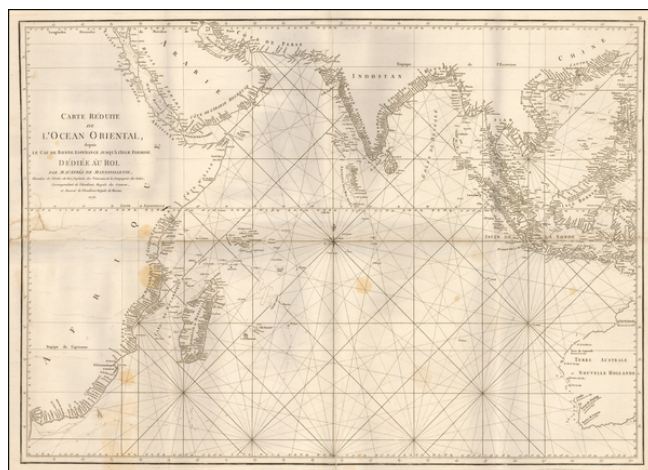
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Carte Reduite de l'Ocean Oriental, depuis le Cap de Bonne Esperance jusqu'a l'Isle Formose. Dediee au Roi. Par M. D'Après de Mannevillette . . . 1775

Stock#: 51977
Map Maker: d'Après de Mannevillette
Date: 1775
Place: Paris
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 27.5 x 19.5 inches
Price: \$1,200.00



Description:

Detailed map of the Indian Ocean by D'Après De Mannevillette's, with pencil notes tracking a voyage around the Cape of Good Hope to Pondicheri, by way of the Isle de France and Bourbon, and Cochin.

This fine large format map of the Indian Ocean is one of the most detailed and accurate general chart of the Indian Ocean published in the second half of the 18th Century and, in this respect, represents a milestone of enlightenment cartography, which strived for clarity and precision. The map embraces the entire Indian Ocean from around 38 degrees South up to its northernmost reaches (the Red Sea) and 30 degrees North; longitudinally, it extends from the Cape of Good Hope, in the west, all the way to include the shores Western Australia.

The overall impression is of an accurate general map, familiar to the modern eye. This was the result of the careful compilation of charts from the best sources, combined with recently acquired geodetic positions taken by the crews of French Navy vessels. Generally, the mapping of India is taken from a variety of the best European sources, including French, Portuguese, Dutch, and English maps. The mapping of Africa and Arabia largely derives from Portuguese sources, and Dutch charts were used to delineate the shores of Southeast Asia and Western Australia.

This chart appeared at and just after an interesting period of French involvement in the Indian Ocean and its basin, and therefore would have been considered highly useful by a variety of stakeholders. From 1742, the India division of the Compagnie Perpétuelle des Indes (essentially the French Colonial Company), was headed by Joseph-François Marquis Dupleix, who would mount an aggressive campaign against the British and their Indian allies for control of the subcontinent. While his endeavors came to a precipitous end in



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1754, Dupleix's activities were historically consequential and melodramatic.

Meanwhile, from 1735 onwards, the first French governor-general of the Mascarene Islands, Bertrand-François Mahé de La Bourdonnais, was undertaking endeavors to colonize Isle de France (now Mauritius), Île Bourbon (Réunion) and Séchelles (Seychelles). Madagascar was also of great interest, as from 1720, it had been the pirate capital of the world, preying on European, Arab and Mughal shipping.

The chart builds on a number of earlier charts by Bellin and an earlier editions of Manneville's chart. While there are several similar and smaller maps that cover the same region, this map is the largest of the series and captures more of Australia than Manneville's smaller chart of the Indian Ocean, published in 1775.

D'Après de Manneville (1707-1780) was a famous French sailor and hydrographer. During a voyage to China in 1728 he succeeded in correcting the latitudes of many places using new instruments. Back in France he devised a plan to correct and publish all the existing maps of the route to China: the Red Sea, the coasts of India, Malaya, the northern parts of Indonesia, Indochina and China. His Atlas Le Neptune Oriental (containing only 22 charts), was first published in 1745, and was regarded as a major achievement and a library indispensable to navigators. In 1762, d'Après was appointed director of an office established by the Compagnie des Indes for the publication of charts.

Detailed Condition:

Minor staining. Several repaired tears below title, near margin.