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(Tasmania) Carte Particuliere de la cote sud-est de Terre de Diemen dressee par L Freycinet . . . Fevrier 1802 (Rare Separately Published Example)

Stock#: 54388
Map Maker: Freycinet
Date: 1812
Place: Paris
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 29 x 19.5 inches
Price: \$2,800.00



Description:

Rare, Detailed, Separately-Issued Chart of Southeast Van Diemen's Land from the Baudin Expedition

Comprehensive chart of the southeast portion of the island of Tasmania as surveyed during the Baudin expedition and published by expedition member Louis Claude Desaulses de Freycinet. It was included in his celebrated and very rare hydrographic atlas, part of the official account of the voyage, which included ten maps of Van Diemen's Land-the most detailed publication on Tasmania to date. This example is special in that it is a separately-issued sheet from the French Hydrographic Office, sold for 1.5 francs.



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The chart shows the southeast of Van Diemen's Land as seen by Freycinet and his colleagues in February 1802. It was the fourth chart in the hydrographic atlas. It shows the complex peninsulas of the southeast of the island, the insularity of which had only just been proven by British Royal Naval officer Matthew Flinders in 1798-9. Other Europeans who touched on the area, and charted it, are referenced in comparative chart that stretches across the bottom of this document. The historical legacy of this region made it a priority for the Baudin expedition to clarify; this chart shows the peninsulas and bays much more intricately than in previous charts.

The title, in an oval cartouche at the center top explains that the chart was drafted from the observations of Freycinet, Pierre Faure, and Charles Pierre Boullanger. In a legend in the lower left, the chart also mentions the names of the ships involved in taking observations for the chart, the aptly-named *Geographe* and the *Naturaliste*. Faure served on the *Naturaliste*, with Freycinet, while Boullanger was a midshipman and hydrographic engineer on the *Geographe*.

The chart contains little adornment besides the cartouche; it was meant to simply and clearly communicate the extensive survey undertaken by the French despite the presence of another British voyage, that of Flinders, which was also surveying Australia in the first years of the nineteenth century. As three French expeditions had already charted this portion of coast, the chart can also be seen as a historical claim by the French over the space.

Previous European exploration of Southeast Van Diemen's Land

The high number of French toponyms on the southeast coast reflect the presence of the Baudin expedition's ships, but also those of previous French and Dutch voyages. Abel Tasman, referenced in the farthest left of the comparative charts, was sent by the Governor-General of the Dutch East Indies, Anthony van Diemen, to seek new lands, resources, and trading opportunities to the south of Australia. In two expeditions in the early 1640s, Tasman sailed in the waters surrounding the continent. His crew were the first Europeans to sight New Zealand, Tonga, and the Fiji Islands. Also, they were the first to visit Van Diemen's Land.

After sailing widely in the far southern Indian Ocean, Tasman found previously unknown land on November 24, 1642. This shore was named for the governor and Tasman's ships charted the southern coast, as shown here. However, Tasman's officers decided not to tarry on the new-found territory and instead struck out farther east, toward New Zealand. He therefore did not discover the strait between Van Diemen's Land and mainland Australia; it was drawn as a part of the mainland for over a century. Tasman is mentioned here with the Tasman Peninsula, but also in lingering Dutch place names like Willaumez Island.



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Next to the area was Marion Dufresne, simply called Marion on this chart. Marc-Joseph Marion Dufresne was a privateer who later worked for the French East India Company. He ferried the astronomer Alexandre Gui Pingre to the Indian Ocean so that Pingre could observe the 1761 Transit of Venus and led an expedition to the Seychelles. He eventually settled on the island of Mauritius, where he was contacted in 1770 by Aotourou, a Tahitian who had journeyed to France with the French explorer Bougainville. Aotourou needed to be taken home and Dufresne volunteered for, and largely financed, the mission.

Dufresne and Aotourou left Mauritius in October 1771. Unfortunately, Aotourou died of smallpox in Madagascar. Dufresne continued without him, claiming the remote Crozet Islands en route east. Desperate for water, Dufresne headed for Van Diemen's Land, where he skirted the entire southern coast of the island in March 1772. He landed near Cape Frederick Hendrik, noted here, and Marion Bay. When he and a shore party ventured on the beach they became the first French explorers to land on part of Australia and the first Europeans to contact aborigines in Van Diemen's Land. Unfortunately, this contact ended in the death of at least one islander. From Tasmania, Dufresne ventured to New Zealand before returning to Mauritius to face bankruptcy.

Another French voyage was Antoine Bruni d'Entrecasteaux's voyage to find out the fate of the celebrated French explorer La Perouse. D'Entrecasteaux left France in October 1791 and arrived off Van Diemen's Land in April 1792. He stayed in the vicinity for five weeks, with his base at *Baie de la Recherche*, from which he surveyed the region shown on this chart. He returned in 1793 and started a systematic search of the southern coast of Australia, laying claim to first discovery of that area, but was forced to sail for a known port in Van Diemen's Land due to lack of water. If he had continued east, perhaps the Bass Strait would be named for d'Entrecasteaux.

As it is, the strait bears the name of George Bass, but it owes its charting to Flinders. Flinders first came to Australia in 1795 as a young naval officer on a voyage to deliver John Hunter to serve as the Governor of New South Wales. On that voyage he met Bass, the ship's surgeon. Once in Port Jackson, the two men set out on two surveying voyages in two tiny vessels, both named *Tom Thumb*. This established their reputations as skilled hydrographers and navigators.

In 1798, now Lieutenant Flinders was charged with command of the *Norfolk* and ordered to sail west of the Furneaux Islands to see if a strait did indeed exist, as there were recent rumors from a shipwrecked crew that a strait was a possibility. If confirmed, the discovery of a strait would change the shape of Australia on all maps and cut the voyage to New South Wales short by several crucial days.

Flinders did confirm the suspected passage in 1798-9, when he and Bass circumnavigated Van Diemen's Land. However, they did little inshore survey work, as shown in the rough outlines sketched on the final



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comparative map, to the far right. Together, the maps show the extensive groundwork laid by Dufresne and d'Entrecasteaux, as well as the significant advances made by Freycinet and his fellows in detailing the various peninsulas and protected bays that crease this winding shoreline.

The geographic importance of Van Diemen's Land

The insularity of Van Diemen's Land was an important geographic discovery not only because it shortened travel times, but because the island offered the French an opportunity for a colonial foothold in Australia thanks to the claims made by Dufresne, d'Entrecasteaux and Baudin. Although Flinders is credited with the discovery of insularity, the Baudin expedition also contributed significantly to the known geographic detail of the island. They especially surveyed Maria Island, partially shown here, the d'Entrecasteaux Channel, as well as the larger Bass Strait. Freycinet and the Baudin expedition added especially to knowledge of the eastern coast of Tasmania.

While the Baudin expedition was still sailing in 1803, the governor of New South Wales, Philip King, sent Lieutenant John Bowen to establish a British presence on the east coast of the island. He wanted to stop the French from achieving the colony they so desired. In 1856, the island colony was granted self-government with a representative parliament. It was then that the name officially changed from Van Diemen's Land to Tasmania.

Louis Freycinet and the Baudin Expedition

This chart featured in the rarest of the volumes to come out of the Baudin expedition. When Nicolas Baudin left Le Havre in the *Geographe* and the *Naturaliste* in October 1800, he was embarking on a voyage meant to survey the shores of Australia. At this time, the British had established their presence in eastern Australia, but the western and southern portions of the continent remained unexplored and not necessarily claimed by the British. In other words, although ostensibly a scientific expedition, the French were also open to possible overseas expansion if the opportunity arose.

In the *Naturaliste*, commanded by Captain Hamelin, was Louis Freycinet, then only 21 years old. He had joined the French Navy in 1793 and was accompanied on this voyage by his brother, Louis-Henri, who would go on to become an admiral.

Initially the ships, sometimes separated, made their way north up the western coast of Australia from Cape Leeuwin to Timor. They then went south again, but were separated a second time. Baudin and the *Geographe* made for Van Diemen's Land and then returned toward the west. En route, they encountered Flinders in the *Investigator*. Flinders, on his third Australian surveying mission, was heading to Sydney,



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from where he would begin a clockwise circumnavigation of the Australian continent, the first such voyage to ever do so. Flinders named the place where he and Baudin met Encounter Bay.

Baudin and Hamelin were reunited in Sydney, where both ships had come to recuperate in late 1801. While there, Baudin purchased a 29-foot vessel. He named it *Casuarina* and placed Freycinet, who had proved himself an adroit hydrographer under Hamelin, in command. With his new charge, Freycinet was to perform inshore surveys.

During the course of 1802, the *Geographe* and the *Casuarina* surveyed the southern coast of Australia (the *Naturaliste* had been sent back to France). They then sailed round the west coast to Timor, then back to Mauritius, where Baudin died. It was also where the *Casuarina's* career ended, as the ship was abandoned in favor of consolidating the crews on the *Geographe*. The ship returned home on March 25, 1804.

The publication of the voyage accounts and atlas

This map chronicles the work of the larger ships and was part of the rare hydrographic atlas published in 1812. Although the French were largely repeating work already done by Matthew Flinders, some of the French toponyms survive today. This is due in large part to the fact that this map was finished before Flinders could produce his own account of his Australian circumnavigation. He had published several charts of his 1798 expedition, which were used by Freycinet in making this chart, but Freycinet's work shows a much larger and more complete area, lending it importance and primacy.

Why did Flinders take so long to publish his own findings, yielding the novelty of publishing the charting of the Australian coastline to the French? Flinders left New Holland in 1803 and arrived in Mauritius to water and repair his leaky vessel on December 15, 1803. Unfortunately, word had reached the French-controlled island only three weeks prior to his arrival that the British had ruptured the fragile Peace of Amiens; the French and British were at war once again. The French governor, General Decaen, detained Flinders after the British officer was not entirely polite. Flinders was kept against his will on the island for six and a half years, returning to England only in October of 1810. Additionally, the French seized his papers, including the ships logs, though they were eventually returned in part.

Freycinet, meanwhile, had returned to France in 1804. Since Baudin had died in Mauritius, the naturalist Francois Peron and Freycinet were directed to prepare for publication the official account of the voyage, with an accompanying atlas. Baudin was not generally well liked by his fellow sailors, a fact borne out by the limited reference made to him or his discoveries in the narrative and maps of the voyage. The French maps also do not recognize the prior claims of first discovery by men like Flinders, in an attempt to give France more prominence. However, Freycinet did likely have access to copies of Flinders' documents



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seized when he was imprisoned, improving the detail of his charts.

The official account appeared over ten years and in four volumes. The first narrative of the voyage, primarily by Peron, was published in 1807. The second narrative volume was published in 1816 and was written primarily by Freycinet. Peron had died in 1810. The first part of the Atlas, which contained 40 engraved plates, two of them folding, appeared in 1807. The second atlas, was published in 1811 with 14 engraved charts, two of them double-page. These double-page maps include a map of the Australian continent, the first map to show the continent in its entirety and made partially from Flinders' papers.

The map shown here first appeared in the rarest of the volumes prepared by Freycinet, the hydrographic atlas dated 1812 and distributed in 1814. It contained 32 engraved charts, 25 of them double-page spreads. An accompanying text volume was published in 1815, also by Freycinet.

By contrast, Flinders' narrative and atlas of his own account appeared only in 1814, almost a decade after the first maps of the Baudin expedition were published and three years after the completion of this chart.

Freycinet's later career

His publications stemming from the Baudin expedition would have been enough to secure the fame of Louis Freycinet. However, he is perhaps best known today for his second voyage to the Pacific, one he commanded in the *Uranie*. From 1817 to 1820, Freycinet cruised the Pacific performing experiments and, of course, making detailed charts. He was accompanied by his wife Rose.

Although the *Uranie* was wrecked in the Falklands on the return journey, the natural historical specimens and geographical notes were saved. They were published in 13 volumes with 4 additional volumes of plates and maps between 1824 and 1844.

The voyage secured Freycinet a place in the *Academie des Sciences*. He also went on to help found the Paris Geographical Society, the first such group of its kind. Louis Freycinet died in 1841.

Rarity

The hydrographic atlas is the rarest of the Baudin publications, many times rarer than the narrative, and it is seldom on the market. This separately issued print is very rare, especially in such good condition. It would be an important addition to any collection of Tasmania or Australian cartography.

Detailed Condition:
