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Mappe-Monde Dresse sur les Observations de Mrs de l'Academie Royale des Sciences et quelques autres et sur les memoirs les plus recens Par M. De L'Isle . . .

Stock#: 54618
Map Maker: Covens & Mortier & De L'Isle
Date: 1721 circa
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 25 x 20 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine Example of Covens & Mortimer's De L'Isle World Map

A nice example of Covens' and Mortiers' decorative double hemisphere map of the world by De L'Isle. It shows the extent of oceanic exploration by the European overseas empires to the early-eighteenth century.

The ornate double hemisphere map includes four polar hemispheric projections in the corners, allowing one to view the earth from varying angles. In the upper left corner is the southern hemisphere, while the northern hemisphere is to the upper right. The lower corners repeat this symmetry, but the projections there are oblique in perspective. They center on Paris and its antipodes. In all four cases, the relatively unknown Polar Regions are highlighted.

Although there is little decoration within the graticule of the hemispheres, the map is quite ornate. The title is enclosed in a cartouche. Arrayed around the sides of the cartouche's frame are four women representing the continents: Europe, America, Africa, and Asia. A ribbon unfurls across the top declaring the dedication: *Nova Orbis Tabula ad Usus Serenissimi Burgundiae Ducis*, a new world map for the use of the Duke of Burgundy.

Along the bottom edge of the map are the publishers' details. Covens' and Mortier's privilege is proclaimed from inside an aquatic-themed cartouche. A sea monster's mouth makes up the top of the frame, surrounded by marine vegetation. Two mermaids, a female and a male, are at either side. The man, to the left, blows a conch, while the women, to the right, strokes a large fish. The sea stretches in the



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background, peppered with sailing vessels of all sizes.

This is a revised state of a world map that originally was published Pierre Mortier before his son, Cornelis, partnered with Johannes Covens. The [1696 first state](#) credited Sanson, not Delisle, but an [interim state](#) replaced Sanson's name without changing the geography.

This state makes many changes, the most important of which is the elimination of the hypothetical coasts of the southern continent. It also revises southern South America and finishes the coasts of Tierra del Fuego, as well as adds the tracks of several recent explorers, moves the Solomon Islands farther west, and separates New Guinea and Australia.

The Western Hemisphere

The western hemisphere is dominated by the vast Pacific. The northwest coast of North America is unfinished, and California is shown as a peninsula. Farther west, a phantom coastline stretches across the North Pacific. This portion of the Asian coast is labeled as discovered by Juan de Gama on a voyage from China to New Spain.

Juan, the grandson of Vasco de Gama, was a Portuguese navigator who was accused of illegal trading with the Spanish in the East Indies. Gama fled and sailed from Macau to Japan in the later sixteenth century. He then struck out east, across the Pacific, and supposedly saw lands in the North Pacific. These lands were initially shown as small islands on Portuguese charts, but ballooned into a continent-sized landmass in later representations. Several voyagers sought out de Gama's lands, including Matthijs Hendrickszoon Quast in 1639 and Maarten Gerritszoon Vries in 1643. After this map's publication, Vitus Bering, a Danish explorer in Russian employ, and James Cook would both check the area and find nothing, finally putting to rest the myth of Gamaland.

This is but one of the stories recounted in the names and tracks of voyages on this map. Another highlight in the western hemisphere are the glaciers of Edmund Halley. Halley convinced the British Admiralty to give him a ship, the *Paramore*, to use as a mobile laboratory for studying magnetic variation. On his second voyage, Halley took the *Paramore* into the Southern Atlantic. While there, he nearly lost his ship to the soaring icebergs he found there. Halley wrote to Josiah Burchett, Secretary of the Admiralty, on March 30, 1700:

In Lattd: 52 ½ ° and 35 ° west Longitude from London, we fell in with great Islands of Ice, of soe Incredible a hight and Magnitude, that I scarce dare write my thoughts of it, at first we took it for land with chaulky cliffs, and the topp all covered with snow, but we soon found our mistake by



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standing in with it, and that it was nothing but Ice, though it could not be less then 200 foot high, and one Island at least 5 mile in front, we could not get ground in 140 fadtham. Yet I conceive it was aground, Ice being very little lighter then water and not above an Eight part above the Surface when it swims...

Halley, awed by the size of the icebergs, hypothesized that they must be land, not floating, as ice typically concealed more beneath the surface than above and Halley could not imagine a floating entity so large.

There is also reference to the voyages of Mendaña and Ferdinand de Quiros in search of the Solomon islands and the great southern continent in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. Importantly, however, there is no actual continent near Antarctica; blank space is preferred to wild conjecture.

The voyage of Shouten and Le Maire is marked, a circumnavigation in 1615-7 that found an alternative route to the Pacific than the Straits of the Magellan. The Dutchmen went instead round Cape Horn. Lesser known voyages are also noted, including the voyage of Dutchman Lindeman in 1670 who found an island in the Southern Atlantic, here named *Isle de Saxembourg*. Another voyage, of the St. Louis in 1708, crosses the South Atlantic. It was a French merchant enterprise and was the first ship to cross from Cape Horn to the Cape of Good Hope.

The Eastern Hemisphere

The eastern hemisphere also shows notable discoveries. The outlines of *I de Dyna* and *Marsevoen* are drawn lightly, as they were unconfirmed islands seen in Dutch charts, a source that usually was kept secret by the Dutch East India Company (VOC). In the far north, a latitude is also marked as the highest point the Dutch achieved in 1670. De L'Isle was also well-schooled in the VOC's encounters with New Holland, memorialized with place names including *Terre de Wit* (1628) and *Terre d'Endracht* (1616).

The journey of Pelsaert in the *Batavia* in 1629 is also marked. *Batavia* departed Texel in the Netherlands in October 1628 and had a troubled journey round the Cape of Good Hope. A VOC official, Jeronimus Cornelisz, and the ship's skipper, Ariaen Jacobsz, hatched a mutiny against Pelsaert, the merchant in command of the ship. The mutiny failed, but the *Batavia* ran aground in Western Australia in June 1629. Pelsaert sailed for Batavia, on the island of Java, in the ship's boat to get help. Four months later Pelsaert returned to a grisly scene. Cornelisz had seized control and set up a tyrannical government. He and his supporters killed over 100 people. Pelsaert tried the mutineers and executed some of them on Seal Island. He returned to Batavia, where he was blamed for a lack of authority and stripped of his assets.



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A less grim reminder of a historical event is the route of the Chevalier de Chaumont. The Chevalier led the first French embassy to Siam, arriving in 1685. They returned the two Siamese diplomats who had visited the court of Louis XIV in 1684. Chaumont eventually gained fame as a travel writer, but as a diplomat he failed to convert the Siamese King to Catholicism or to secure lucrative trade deals.

Detailed Condition: