Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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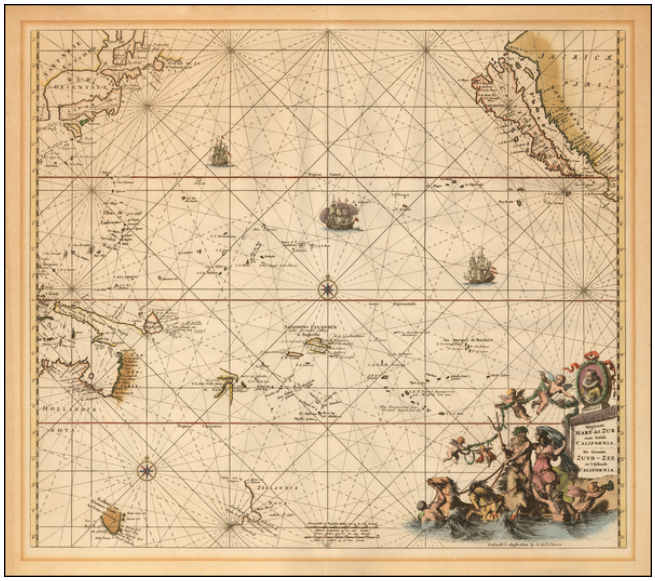
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Magnum Mare del Zur cum Insula California | De Groote Zuyd-Zee en 't Eylandt California

Stock#: 57051
Map Maker: Ottens

Date: 1745 circa
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 22 x 19.5 inches

Price: SOLD



Description:

The Vast Pacific Ocean

Striking example of Reiner and Joshua Ottens' chart of the Pacific Ocean, an updated state of Frederick De Wit's chart of 1675.

The map prominently shows California as an island (see below), a geographic myth that was losing purchase by the time the Ottens published the map.

Across the sea, the depiction of Japan strikes the modern eye as odd. It is shown largely horizontally, a typical representation at the time. North of the main islands is a large protrusion that extends into the border of the map, *Terre de Iesso*; to the east is another set of islands called *Terre de la Compagnie*. These North Pacific chimeras (see below) often appeared on maps of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. In this state, Tartary is included and the shapes of Iesso and Compagnies Land have been altered.

In the southwest is a curious, disjointed portrayal of New Guinea and Australia. First, we see a nearly round New Britain. This island was named by William Dampier, a buccaneer naturalist who visited on one of his three circumnavigations. He arrived in 1700, showing how this state was updated as compared to earlier examples.

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New Guinea is shown as a long thrust which almost connects to Carpentaria, which is part of Australia. At the time of publication, only the Spanish knew of the strait between the two, as it had been discovered on a Spanish voyage in 1605. However, the navigator, Torres', information was sequestered in Spanish archives until the 1760s, leading to many maps that suggest a close relationship between New Guinea and Australia.

The toponyms in Australia come from early Dutch encounters with that coast, particularly the voyage of the *Duyfken* in 1605-06. Under the command of Willem Janszoon, the *Duyfken* explored the eastern shore of the Gulf of Carpentaria, just below the Cape York Peninsula, a venture which was famously the first recorded European contact with Australia.

Farther south are the partial shores of Van Diemen's Land and New Zealand. These come from the first voyage of Abel Tasman. By the 1640s, the officials of the VOC were eager to know the extent of the south lands and if they included any useful resources or willing trading partners. They appointed Abel Tasman to pursue these questions. Tasman's 1642-43 voyage was the first to circumnavigate the whole of the Australasia region, thus proving it was a separate entity unconnected from a mythical, and massive, southern continent. He surveyed the south coast of Tasmania, which he called Van Diemens Land after the VOC governor of Batavia, and the western coast of New Zealand, as well as the Tonga and Fiji Archipelagos. While important for geography, his voyage was nevertheless a disappointment to the VOC, as it netted no new commercial opportunities.

His second voyage proved even less successful. He was supposed to find a passage south of New Guinea to the east coast of Australia, but he missed the strait and instead thought it a bay. He did, however, more fully chart Australia's northern coastline, which had only been sporadically encountered to that point.

The final innovation of this chart is the inclusion of the Solomon Islands and the strange *T Land van den H. Geest*. The Solomons had been known since the 1670s, following the first voyage of Alvaro de Mendaña (1565-7). However, their exact location remained a matter of debate.

The chart is finished with a series of ships in full sail. There is also a notable cartouche with Neptune and a companion ensconced in a shall chariot and pulled by mighty horses and guardians.

States of the chart

The chart, based on a similar Goos chart of 1666, was first published in de Wit's *Orbis Maritimus ofte Zee Atlas* in 1675. It was updated to include Compagnies Land in a second state before 1690.

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Renard re-issued this state in ca. 1715.

This is the final state, which includes New Britain, Tartary, and more central Pacific islands, and was issued ca. 1745.

Detailed Condition:
Old Color. Minor marginal toning from a prior mat.