



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

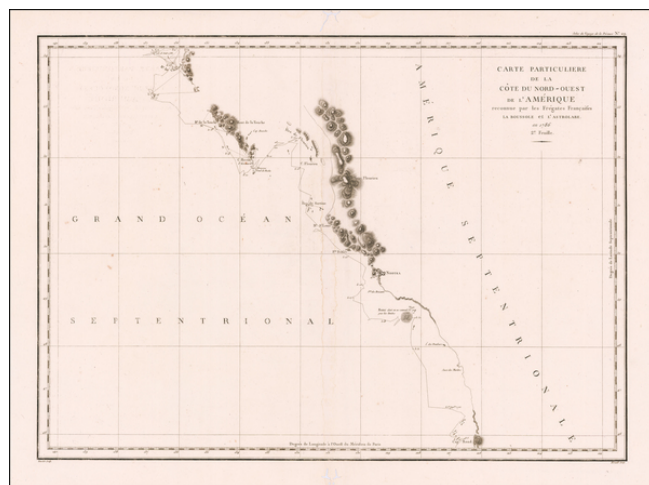
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[Vancouver Island] Carte Particuliere de la Cote du Nord-Ouest de l'Amerique reconnue par les Fregates Francaises la Boussole et l' Astrolabe en 1786 2e. Feuille.

Stock#: 58895
Map Maker: La Perouse
Date: 1797
Place: Paris
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 27 x 19.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Vancouver Island Before Vancouver!

Early sea chart of a portion of the west coast of Vancouver Island, centered on Nootka from the epic voyage of the Jean-François de Galaup, Comte de La Pérouse.

This fine map embraces the western coast of Vancouver Island. The map shows the tracks of La Pérouse's ship along the coastline in September 1786, one of the earliest non-Spanish expeditions to make detailed observations along the coastline in the 18th Century.

Jean-François de Galaup, Comte de La Pérouse (1741-88) was a French naval officer and scientist. In response to Cook's epic Pacific Voyages (1768-80), the French government appointed La Perouse to lead an expedition to explore the regions that were left uncharted by Cook.

In 1785, La Pérouse's party set out in two ships, the *Astrolabe* and the *Boussole*. La Pérouse explored Hawaii (being the first European to set foot on Maui), the coasts of the Gulf of Alaska and northwestern North America in search of the fabled Northwest Passage. Subsequently, he explored East Asia from Kamchatka to Macao, before heading to the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific. His expedition vanished shortly after leaving Botany Bay, Australia, in 1788. Fortunately, before setting off, La Pérouse left his manuscript maps and journals with the British in Australia, thus allowing the present chart to be published, for the first time, almost a decade later.

La Pérouse was the first non-Spanish visitor to California since Drake's visit in 1579, and the first to come



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to California after the founding of the Spanish missions and presidios. As depicted on the map, during August and September 1786, La Pérouse sailed as far south in America as the Spanish region of Alta California (present-day California). He reportedly observed the only historical eruption of Mount Shasta on September 7, 1786, although this account is disputed. He stopped in San Francisco long enough to create an outline map of the Bay Area, which is incorporated into the present chart. He arrived at the Presidio of Monterey on September 14, 1786.

Detailed Condition: