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Il Mappamondo o sia Descrizione Generale Del Globo . . . 1774

Stock#: 60768
Map Maker: Zatta
Date: 1774
Place: Venice
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 15.5 x 11.5 inches
Price: \$ 675.00



Description:

Fine Italian World Map Featuring Cook's First Voyage

First edition of Antonio Zatta's decorative double-hemisphere map of the world, published in Venice in 1774.

The geography of the map shows Zatta trying to process the rapidly changing details from recent voyages, including the first voyage of James Cook. Cook's expedition to view the Transit of Venus in Tahiti is marked on this map (1768-1771). This is reflected in the more complete—yet bizarrely shaped—New Zealand. A long, straight coast in eastern New Holland also shows Cook's encounter with that part of the continent.

Hokkaido, usually called Ieso or Yesso on maps of this period, is exaggerated in size, as was typical on maps of this period. Madagascar has an eastward bend, another common depiction on maps of the eighteenth century.

The northern portions of North America are still in flux. Greenland and North America appear to be connected and just the suggestion of Alaska is included. This Alaskan outline stems from the Russian voyages of the mid-eighteenth century led by Vitus Bering. The track of the second Bering expedition (1733-43) is included here. There is also a northern route through the Straits of Anian, an antiquated term for the Bering Strait, or the Northern Strait as it is written on this map.

Another track included here is that of Louis-Antoine de Bougainville. The Frenchman set off in 1764 on a circumnavigation and was the second European ship to reach Tahiti.



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As with many of Zatta's maps, the decorative elements are fine and plentiful. Between the hemispheres are an armillary sphere and a compass rose. A floral cartouche includes the title and Zatta's information. In the four corners are four women who are allegories for the Four Continents. This was a popular artistic trope of the eighteenth century and suggests a world order with Europe ascendent.

Detailed Condition: