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Hemisphere Septentrional pour voir plus distinctement Les Terres Arctiques . . .

Stock#: 65649
Map Maker: Covens & Mortier & De L'Isle
Date: 1720
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG+
Size: 18 x 18 inches
Price: \$ 750.00



Description:

Fine Map of the Northern Hemisphere from Guillaume De L'Isle

Covens and Mortier state of Guillaume De L'Isle's map of the Northern Hemisphere, originally published by De L'Isle in 1714.

The map shows the entire Northern Hemisphere. The projection has the opposite effect of a Mercator projection, which tends to stretch and distort landmasses that are close to the poles. Here, it is territory close to the equator that is stretched, allowing the Arctic to come into sharp focus.

California is shown as a peninsula, although other contemporary maps still featured it as an island. Greenland is connected to Northern Canada in Baffin Bay, a common hypothesis at this time. Japan too is shown in what appears a rudimentary form; a more horizontal orientation of the archipelago was typical on maps until slightly later in the eighteenth century.

In the North Pacific, an unfinished island extends eastward. This *Terre de la Compagnie* is near *Terre d'Yedso*, an exaggeration of Hokkaido. Nearby, a note ties the former to the voyage of *Dom Jean de Gama*, who supposedly discovered a large coastline in the area. All three of these proved to be chimeras which shrank over the course of the century and eventually disappeared from maps.



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The unfinished shores of North America and Greenland suggest that further exploration is necessary to better understand the Arctic. Indeed, the map seems to imply that there may be a navigable route north of Asia or around Baffin and Hudson's Bay, a nod to the much-sought and still-elusive Northwest Passage.

Detailed Condition: