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Hydrographical Chart of the World on Wright or Mercator's Projection With The Tracts of the Last Circumnavigators

Stock#: 71523
Map Maker: Thomson
Date: 1814
Place: Edinburgh
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 20 x 17.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine Map of the World with Explorer's Routes

Detailed map of the world, showing the tracks of recent explorers by Thomson, who was renowned for his atlases.

The map, on a Mercator projection, shows vast expanses in the high latitudes. In the mid-nineteenth century, the Arctic was beginning to be the main focus of European exploration. Vessels set out in an attempt to find the Northwest Passage. They were also interested in the Antarctic; although Cook had proven that there was no temperate southern continent, explorers still wanted to know what was near the South Pole.

The continents appear familiar to the modern reader, with a few important exceptions. Greenland and Baffin Bay are connected, as they appeared to be so due to ice floes and glaciers. The northern coast of North America is left unfinished; it was to be filled in by the Arctic expeditions of the nineteenth century.

Australia is separated from Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania), a result of the circumnavigation of Tasmania by Matthew Flinders and George Bass in 1798. There are several Dutch expeditions noted on the Australian mainland; these were Dutch East India Company voyages that encountered Australia as part of the Indian Ocean trade.



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of the Last Circumnavigators**

Several ship tracks criss-cross the world's waters. These are the latest state-sponsored exploratory expeditions that accelerated in number in the late-eighteenth century. Those included here are the three voyages of James Cook. On the third voyage, Cook died in Hawai'i. His second-in-command Charles Clerke took over, hence his track on this map. However, Clerke also died on the voyage, leaving Charles Gore to take command, and adding his track as well. Interestingly, Gore circumnavigated the world four times.

The other tracks are those of Jean-Francois de Galaup, comte de La Perouse, a French explorer, and George Vancouver, a British naval officer trained in hydrography by Cook.

Detailed Condition: