



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

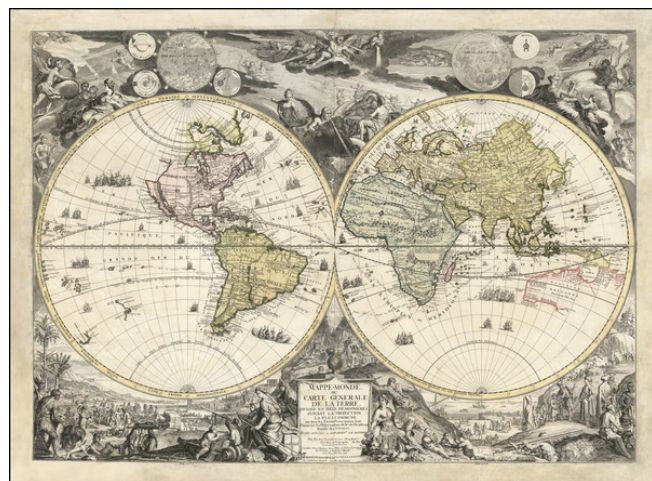
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Mappe-Monde, Ou Carte Generale De La Terre, Divisee En Deux Hemispheres. . . 1694

Stock#: 73331
Map Maker: de Fer
Date: 1694
Place: Paris
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 43.5 x 31.3 inches
Price: \$ 65,000.00



Description:

Only the Third Known Example of the Exceedingly Rare First State of De Fer's 1694 World Map (Shirley 560)—"An outstanding four-sheet map..."

An extremely rare French wall map of the world, this map merits a "RRR" on the Shirley rarity scale.

The map is an ornamental masterpiece, issued by Nicolas de Fer to celebrate the successes of the Paris Observatory and the *Académie des sciences* in observing the movements of the planets.

The map was originally issued in 1694 without accompanying text (only two known examples of that first edition are cited by Shirley).

The double-hemisphere map is a fine overview of geographical knowledge at the end of the seventeenth century. California is shown as an island, while farther north the Strait of Anian separates an incomplete Anian from the Pacific Northwest. The strait suggestively heads toward Hudson's Bay or Baffin's Bay, a significant nod to the much-sought Northwest Passage.

To the south, Tierra del Fuego is the final landmass before an empty Antarctic. De Fer was conservative in his additions here, so there is no hint of a speculative southern continent. As he explains in a note in the interior of Africa, it is better to leave blank space than to fill it with mere possibilities.

In the Pacific is the partial coast of New Zealand as contacted by Abel Tasman on his voyage of 1642-3. Snaking nearby is a ship's route. This marks the circumnavigation of Willem Schouten and Jacob Le Maire. The Dutch East India Company (VOC) had declared the Straights of Magellan as their own, disallowing



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non-VOC ships from entering. In an attempt to circumvent these restrictions, the merchant Isaac LeMaire, Jacob's father, financed a voyage to find an alternative route in 1615. William Schouten and Isaac Le Maire entered the Pacific from the West via a straight that sent their ships around Cape Horn, which they named for their port of departure in the Netherlands. Le Maire's name was chosen for the Strait, while the island they passed by received the name of Staten Landt. The Schouten and Le Maire expedition also named the Barnevelt Islands after Johan van Oldenbarnevelt, governor of the province of Holland.

This map also shows Brouwer's Strait. As part of a Dutch West Indies Company expedition to Chile, Brouwer led a fleet from Recife, Brazil in 1643. The Company wanted to join a revolt already started by the Araucano Indians in an attempt to destabilize the Spanish hold on power. Brouwer had his fleet sail on an easterly route, discovering that Le Maire's Staten Land was insular.

In the eastern hemisphere, the interior of Africa is of particular interest. The Nile River, then as now one of the most important rivers in the world, has a multi-pronged source. The central source stream is in Eastern Africa; indeed, Lake Tana (here *Tzana*) is the source of the Blue Nile. The other two branches of the Nile, both called the Nubia River, peter out, but one is close to a waterway that leads to the Mountains of the Moon in the south. These mountains are part of a Ptolemaic understanding of the source of the Nile and were common on maps of the time. The third stream that connects to the Mountains of the Moon waterway is a lake system in western Africa which connects to the Niger River.

Another expedition is marked in Southeast Asia. In 1685-6, Alexander, the Chevalier de Chaumont, led a delegation from France to Siam, which today is known as Thailand. This was the second official French trip to Siam; Chaumont was to deliver two ambassadors and to collect delegates from the first delegation of 1684. The route marked here is Chaumont's return to Brest in 1686.

Australia was of especial interest to the Dutch at this time. New Holland, as it was called, is connected to Carpentaria here, a common depiction on contemporary maps. De Fer could not know that Luís Vaz de Torres, who sailed with the Pacific explorer Pedro Fernandes de Quiros on a voyage for the Spanish in 1605 (his time in Vanuatu is recorded with *Terre de Quir*), had passed through the straits between New Guinea and Australia. However, the Spanish had suppressed his report in the hopes of maintaining power via geographic secrecy and the Strait was only rediscovered by Alexander Dalrymple in 1762 when he was researching documents captured from the Spanish in the Philippines during the Seven Years' War. Later, Cook sailed through the Strait, confirming its existence to the Western world, during his first voyage.

The toponyms of Australia's east coast are from Dutch encounters with the coast due to the strong winds of the Roaring Forties, a tempestuous area of the higher latitudes of the southern hemisphere. For example, to the east is *Dirck Hartogs Ree*. The *Endracht* was the second recorded European ship to contact Australia (1616), and the first in western Australia. The *Endracht* was blown off course en route to



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the East Indies in that year. It was commanded by Dirk Hartog, hence his name here. The crew commemorated their discovery by erecting a post with a pewter dish inscribed with their ship's information—the earliest physical record that historians have of any European landing in Australia.

Houtmans Abrolhos and *Terre d'Edels* farther south both refer to the same voyage in 1619. Jacob d'Edel, in the *Amsterdam*, along with Frederik de Houtman in the *Dordrecht* came within sight of the western coast and called the stretch of land *d'Edelsland*. The *Houtmans Abrolhos* are an archipelago, as shown here with x marks, and named for the navigator who sighted them, or at least it was Houtman who reported the islands to the VOC. It was here that the *Batavia* infamously wrecked in 1628. The name *Houtmans Abrolhos*, as used on this chart, was first used in Hessel Gerritszoon's 1627 chart, *Caert van't Landt van d'Eendracht*. Also included on Gerritszoon's chart is the shoal sighted by and named for the *Tortelduyf*, which is labeled here as *Tortel Duyf*.

Farther south, *Terre de Leeuwin* is named for the *Leeuwin*, whose crew charted some of the southwest coastline in 1622; Flinders would later name Cape Leeuwin, the southwestern most point on the Australian mainland, after the ship. A note in the south mentions *Terre de Nuyts*, which is named for Pieter Nuyts, a Dutch navigator who commanded the *Gulden Zeepaert* along the southern coast in 1627.

The geography of this map is matched beautifully by the decorative features around the hemispheres. The title cartouche at the lower center is surrounded by vignettes of scientific endeavors, voyaging, and trade around the world. At top, the classical imagery is interspersed with a series of circles. These illustrate important astronomical theories and images.

The map was supposed to celebrate the geographical and astronomical achievements of the Paris Observatory and the *Académie des sciences*. The latter was founded in 1666 by Louis XIV with consultation from his advisor Jean-Baptiste Colbert. The *Académie* was particularly concerned with astronomy and the Paris Observatory was founded only a year after the *Académie*, in 1667, to serve the Academicians in their observation of the stars.

Shirley's description

Shirley explains in his listing for map 560:

NICHOLAS DE FER, a prolific French cartographer, was active from the early 1690s until his death in 1720. He produced this outstanding four-sheet world map in 1694. The map itself was engraved by Hendrik van Loon but the work's real merit lies in the decorative features which were designed and engraved with distinction by Nicolas Guérard.



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The two hemispheres, as the expanded title relates, were constructed from observations made throughout the world by gentlemen of the Royal Academy of Sciences. Australia, Papua, New Guinea, Japan, and other uncharted areas have their coastlines faintly shaded. In the African interior de Fer records the imaginary rivers and mountain ranges of his predecessors. One source of the Nile is shown, correctly, as coming from Lake Tana in Ethiopia but the other main tributary reaches into the Sahara. Across the equatorial regions de Fer has placed this note: 'Better to leave this space blank rather than fill it with unknown and imaginary particulars'. Following Coronelli, Chaumont's route from Brest to Siam and back in 1685-86 is marked, as is Schouten's track across the Pacific in 1616.

The top and bottom borders are engraved in great detail. Along the top are pictures of Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Venus and Mercury after Cassini, and two visual plans of the sun and moon. An expansive tableau displays gods and goddesses, zodiacal figures, winds and mythological scenes. The lower part of the map has scenes depicting mankind in all activities of trade, commerce, exploration, construction, scientific discovery, art and pleasure.

There are two copies of de Fer's map in the Bibliotheque Nationale and another in the Bayerische Landesbibliothek, Karlsruhe [sic.]: others may be located elsewhere but I do not know of a copy in any of the public collections either in the UK or the USA. An issue of 1705 has been noted. The author possesses a copy dated 1717 but with accompanying text concluding with the date 1712, and there may also have been an edition of 1720. Later versions dated 1730 and 1737 were issued by de Fer's son-in-law Guillaume Danet, and in these states California has been redrawn as a peninsula, a fleet of ships offshore erased, and other amendments made to the plates. One such issue was exhibited by The Map House, London, in mid-1980 with text dated 1728 and in the dedicatory panel the imprint: Renouvellee et augmentee par les soins du G.Danet Gendre de l'Auteur et se rend chez lui pont N.Dame a la sphere Royale avec Privilege du Roi 1730.

Rarity

As noted in the Shirley description, this is an extremely rare map. This is only the third known example of this first state, in addition to the two noted in the Bibliotheque Nationale and the Badische Landesbibliothek, Karlsruhe.

Added to those later examples mentioned by Shirley, we note a very rare edition of 1698. It is nearly identical to the 1694, but with text panels at the sides of the map. An example of this state of the map was offered at auction by Reiss & Sohn in April 2004.



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Detailed Condition: