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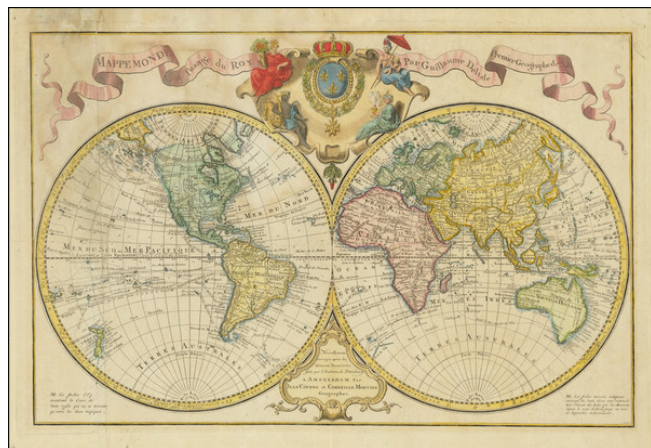
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**Mappemonde a l'usage du Roy Par Guillaume Delisle Premier-Geographe de S.M.  
Nouvelle corrigee apres les dernieres Decouvertes faite par l'Academie de Petersbourg .**

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**Stock#:** 80446  
**Map Maker:** Covens & Mortier  
**Date:** 1774  
**Place:** Amsterdam  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 26 x 17 inches  
**Price:** \$ 1,800.00



**Description:**

***Late State of the Covens & Mortier Edition of De L'Isle's World Map—with Early Details from the First Cook Voyage***

Fine example of the Amsterdam-edition of De L'Isle's world map. The map was greatly influenced by the findings of maritime explorers. This scarce state includes the findings of the first Cook expedition (1768-1771), as seen in the outline of New Zealand and Australia.

The map includes pleasant aesthetic details above and between the hemispheres. At top center, arrayed around a coat of arms are four women representing the continents: Europe, America, Africa, and Asia. A ribbon unfurls across the top declaring the title. At the lower center is another cartouche, this one with floral details. This state includes the addition of wind direction arrows in the oceans, between the Tropics of Capricorn and Cancer.

The western hemisphere is dominated by the vast Pacific. In the north are many islands, those sighted by the Russian expeditions led by Vitus Bering (1725-30, 1733-43). These voyages proved definitively that Asia and North America were not connected and also contacted lands now known as Alaska. This map includes the routes of Bering and his fellow officer, Chirikov (here Tschirikow) from the Second Kamchatka Expedition. Western Europeans first learned of these voyages from reports taken from St. Petersburg by the French academic Joseph-Nicolas De L'Isle, as referenced in the cartouche.

However, there is still room for conjecture in the North Pacific. There are several inlets in the Pacific



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Northwest that suggest waterways crossing the continent and connecting Atlantic and Pacific. Two, supposedly discovered by Juan de Fuca and Martin Aguilar, lead to a mythical inland sea, the Sea of the West. The former navigator was a Spanish captain who sailed with Sebastian Vizcaino on a reconnaissance expedition up the California coast in 1602-3. Aguilar, commanding the *Tres Reyes*, was blown off course, to the north. When the seas calmed, Aguilar reported that he had found the mouth of a large river. Eighteenth-century geographers, including J. N. De L'Isle and Bauche, conjectured that the river was the entrance to the Sea of the West, as it is positioned on this map.

There is another entrance to the sea, this one labeled as the discovery of Juan de la Fuca, the Castilianized name of Greek navigator Ioánnis Fokás (Phokás). Little archival evidence survives of Fuca's career, but a chance meeting with an English financier, Michael Lok, in Venice in 1596 gave birth to rumors of Fuca's voyages in the Pacific. Fuca reported that he had been sent north from New Spain twice in 1592 in search of the Strait of Anian. The Spanish Crown failed to reward Fuca's discovery of an opening in the coast at roughly 47° N latitude and Fuca left the Spanish service embittered. His story lived on in Lok's letters and eventually was published in Samuel Purchas' travel collection of 1625. On many eighteenth-century maps, including this one, Fuca's Strait is linked with a River or Sea of the West. In 1787, the present-day Juan de Fuca Strait was named by the wife of naval explorer Charles William Barkley, making permanent a label that had previously just been hopeful conjecture.

To the north, another inlet was found by an Admiral de Fonte. Admiral de Fonte supposedly sailed to the area in the mid-seventeenth century. The first mention of Fonte appears in two letters published in London in 1708 in two issues of *The Monthly Miscellany or Memoirs for the Curious*. The Fonte letters had been reprinted by Arthur Dobbs in his 1744 *An Account of the Countries adjoining Hudson's Bay* and were mentioned in other travel accounts. Delisle's copy of the letters came from Lord Forbes, British ambassador to Russia, as he explained in a memoir, *Nouvelles Cartes des Decouvertes de l'Amiral de Fonte* (Paris, 1753). He also read of them in Henry Ellis' account of the 1746-7 expedition to Wager Inlet.

The letters recounted that Fonte had found an inlet near 53°N which led to a series of lakes. While sailing north east, Fonte eventually met with a Boston merchant ship, commanded by a Captain Shapley. One of Fonte's captains, separated from the Admiral, reported he had found no strait between the Pacific and the Davis Straits, yet had reached 79°N, helped by local indigenous peoples. This story, with its suggestion of water passages connecting the Pacific Northwest with the east, inspired hope in some and doubt in others in the mid-eighteenth century. A few, like Irish mapmaker John Green, thought the entire story a farce. Many, including De L'Isle, Buache, Danet, and Desnos, thought the information conformed neatly to other recent discoveries and included Fonte on their map.



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Additionally, in the eastern hemisphere, just north of Japan and Yedso (Hokkaido), is *Terre de la Compagnie*. This feature was related to Dutch voyages in search of the mythic Gamaland in the seventeenth century (see below).

Another highlight in the western hemisphere are the glaciers of Edmund Halley. Halley convinced the British Admiralty to give him a ship, the *Paramore*, to use as a mobile laboratory for studying magnetic variation. On his second voyage, Halley took the *Paramore* into the Southern Atlantic. While there, he nearly lost his ship to the soaring icebergs he found there. Halley wrote to Josiah Burchett, Secretary of the Admiralty, on March 30, 1700:

*In Lattd: 52 ½ ° and 35 ° west Longitude from London, we fell in with great Islands of Ice, of soe Incredible a hight and Magnitude, that I scarce dare write my thoughts of it, at first we took it for land with chaulky cliffs, and the topp all covered with snow, but we soon found our mistake by standing in with it, and that it was nothing but Ice, though it could not be less then 200 foot high, and one Island at least 5 mile in front, we could not get ground in 140 fadtham. Yet I conceive it was aground, Ice being very little lighter then water and not above an Eight part above the Surface when it swims...*

Halley, awed by the size of the icebergs, hypothesized that they must be land, not floating, as ice typically concealed more beneath the surface than above and Halley could not imagine a floating entity so large.

There is also reference to the voyages of Mendaña and Ferdinand de Quiros in search of the Solomon Islands and the great southern continent in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. On his 1605 voyage, Quiros encountered what he called *Australia de Espiritu Santo*, which is actually Vanuatu.

The voyage of Schouten and Le Maire is marked, a circumnavigation in 1615-6 that found an alternative route to the Pacific than the Straits of the Magellan. The Dutchmen went instead round Cape Horn. Lesser-known voyages are also noted, including the voyage of Dutchman Lindeman in 1670 that found an island in the Southern Atlantic, here named *Isle de Saxembourg*. Another voyage, of the St. Louis in 1708, crosses the South Atlantic. It was a French merchant enterprise and was the first ship to cross from Cape Horn to the Cape of Good Hope.

The important influence of the voyages of William Dampier around the turn of the eighteenth century are also evident here. He was the first person to circumnavigate the world three times. In doing so, he named the island of New Britain, off New Guinea, which is seen here. In Australia, he gave the name Sharks Bay (here *Scharksbay*). He also provided one of the earliest printed descriptions of Aboriginal peoples in

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Europe. Unfortunately, it was not a positive description, which is why this note a note about the color of the peoples' skin is included here.

Tying both hemispheres together is the track of Abel Tasman on his first Pacific voyage of 1642-3. This expedition, funded by the Dutch East India Company, was the first to circumnavigate the whole of the Australasia region, thus proving it was a separate entity unconnected from a mythical, and massive, southern continent. Tasman surveyed the south coast of Tasmania, which he called Van Diemens Land after the VOC governor of Batavia, and the western coast of New Zealand, as well as the Tonga and Fiji Archipelagos.

Australia is an interesting mix of older Dutch encounters in the west and recent British encounters in the east. *Terre de Wit*, recalls Gerrit Frederikssoon de Witt, captain of the *Vianen*, who sailed in 1628. To the west is *Terre d'Endracht*. The *Endracht* was the second recorded European ship to contact Australia (1616). *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. *Terre de Nuits* is named for Pieter Nuyts, a Dutch navigator who commanded the *Gulden Zeepaert* along the southern coast in 1627.

The east coast, by contrast, got all of its toponyms from one voyage, James Cook's, which sailed up that shore in 1770 (see below). Cook's influence is also seen in the outline of New Zealand, which is shown in modern form. Cook's map of New Zealand, which featured in the voyage account of his first expedition, published in 1772, was masterful and was used until the twentieth century.

### **The Russian discoveries in the Pacific Northwest and the odd case of Stitchen Nitada**

As mentioned above, the sea between North America and Russia is now filled with islands and labels. These originate from, as the map states, "*Découvertes faites par les Russes depuis environ 20 ans,*" or discoveries made by the Russian 20 years ago.

Two expeditions led by Vitus Behring (1728-30, 1733-43) explored Kamchatka and what is now Alaska, charting the strait between them. The first maps of the discoveries appeared in France in the early 1750s, followed by a German map by Gerhard Müller, a member of the second Kamchatka Expedition, first published in 1754 and distributed more widely in a 1758 edition. These maps, though they differed in many respects, show the strait between the continents and the westward thrust of the Alaskan mainland/archipelago.



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In the 1760s, Russian fur traders discovered more and more of the Aleutian Islands, some of which are shown here. In 1764, another Second Kamchatka Expedition veteran, Lieutenant Ivan Synd, led a new voyage to the Bering Sea. He was in search of the Northwest Passage, but also hoped to clarify to what extent western Alaska was a peninsula or an archipelago. He produced several maps, all but one of which have been lost. The map that does survive shows a series of islands nearly touching Kamchatka, not a peninsula.

As a result of Synd's findings, a modified 1773 Russian edition of Müller's chart converts Müller's large peninsula to a string of islands. In the same year Jacob von Stählin, secretary to the Russian Academy of Sciences, created his own map based on Synd's discoveries entitled, "A Map of the New Northern Archipelago discover'd by the Russians." This map, published in a book with a similar title, was a source for this edition of Covens & Mortier's map; it adopts several toponyms from the Stählin map, including Stachtan Nitada on the North American mainland, near the Arctic Circle.

Written as Satchan Nitada on the Covens & Mortier example, this toponym seems to have been included for the first time by Stählin. It is supposedly a place Synd landed at and is near the sighting of the Alaskan mainland by the Russians in 1730, an event also marked on this map. The book excited members of the Royal Society of London, who ensured that the German language publication was translated into English by the end of 1774.

However, Stachtan Nitada's precise location and importance remained unclear to explorers, none more so than James Cook. Cook carried the English translation of Stählin's map with him on this third voyage, which was focused on finding the Northwest Passage. What interested Cook was the strait between Stachtan Nitada and the nearest island to the west, a feature repeated, in reduced form, on this map. It seemed to Cook and others planning his third voyage that this could be an entrance to a Northwest Passage.

When Cook arrived in search of the islands and passage in 1778, he found no such place. As J.C. Beaglehole, Cook's twentieth-century editor, explains:

*...no one could be too hard on Stählin. He had thrown the name Alaska on to an arbitrary island in the north; the other name Stachtan Nitada was unknown to either Russian or Aleut...As a cartographer he was naïve, even infantile; and he was unwise enough to speak slightly of seamen. (Journals of Captain Cook, cxxxvii-cxxxviii)*

Cook himself had choice words about Stählin and Stachtan Nitada. In his journal of October 1778, he



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wrote:

*Stachtan Nitada as it is calld in the Modern maps, is a name quite unknown to these people, Indians as well as Russians, but both know it by the name of America. (251)*

Of Stählin's map, Cook wrote later in October 1778:

*If Mr Stehlin was not greatly imposed upon what could induce him to publish so erroneous a Map? in which many of these islands are jumbled in in [sic] regular confusion, without the least regard to truth and yet he is pleased to call it a very accurate little Map? A Map that the most illiterate Seafaring men would have been ashamed to put his name to. (456)*

Of course, Covens & Mortier could not have known of the inaccuracy of the map in 1774, as Cook would not test Stählin's hypotheses until later in the decade. For that reason, Stachtan Nitada appears here and on several other contemporary maps and is an enduring example of the conjectural nature of mapmaking.

### **States of the map**

Covens & Mortier published the maps of Guillaume De L'Isle in Amsterdam. This map was based on one that [De L'Isle published earlier in the century](#), and which [Philippe Buache, De L'Isle's son-in-law and collaborator with Guillaume's brother, Joseph-Nicolas, republished in 1745](#).

Covens & Morier published at least four states of this map, with additions in the later states that especially updated the North Pacific. The firm altered the cartouche to carry their name; [one state has the date 1739](#), while [another has no date](#). In the early 1750s, the map was altered to include the Bering expeditions, [as mentioned in the cartouche](#).

This state, the latest state known, includes the first Cook expedition, more of the Bering expeditions North Pacific findings, and the wind arrows. This state is quite scarce and this is only the second time we have offered it in thirty years of trading.

### **Detailed Condition:**