



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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Werelt Caert

Stock#: 81265
Map Maker: Stoopendahl
Date: 1700
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 18 x 12 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Decorative double hemisphere map of the World, showing California as an Island, with the Continents represented in the female form.

The double-hemisphere layout, with both the eastern and western hemispheres portrayed side by side, offers a comprehensive perspective on world geography of the time.

Upon closer observation, the map's intriguing details begin to unfold. Notably, California is represented as an island, reflecting a widespread geographical misconception that persisted in Europe for much of the 17th and 18th centuries. In the same vein, the portrayal of the Straits of Anian, believed to be a gateway to the Northwest Passage, signifies the era's exploration narratives. However, the lack of detail further north along the North American coast speaks to the limitations of geographical knowledge of the time.

Similarly, the representation of a single Great Lake in the upper Midwest region of North America, with an indeterminate western end, mirrors the style of Jansson's map from circa 1636. This suggests a lack of definitive information about the continent's interior during the period.

The map's depiction of the southern hemisphere is equally as captivating. The outline of Australia, largely based on Abel Tasman's discoveries, is incomplete, with significant portions of the southern and all of the western coast missing. Similarly, New Zealand is shown with a single coastline, a feature also attributable to Tasman's findings.

Significantly, the mythical land of Terra Australis Incognita is conspicuously absent, indicating a shift away from earlier beliefs about a vast southern continent. However, there is no indication of any discoveries in Antarctica, reflecting the exploratory limitations of the period.



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The map's representation of Asia is also noteworthy. Korea is presented as a long, narrow peninsula, while Japan is notably distorted, reflecting limited knowledge of East Asia's geography. The depiction of the Philippine Islands is noticeably inaccurate, another testament to the geographical misconceptions of the period.

What truly sets this map apart are the vividly portrayed personifications of the four continents at its borders. Each continent is represented by a female form, flanked by indigenous flora and fauna. These allegorical figures personify the characteristics and qualities Europeans associated with each continent, providing a glimpse into the cultural and social perceptions of the world during the 18th century.

Detailed Condition: