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Mappe-Monde, Ou Carte Generale De La Terre, Divisee En Deux Hemispheres. . . 1730

Stock#: 81912
Map Maker: de Fer

Date: 1730
Place: Paris
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 43 x 31 inches

Price: SOLD



Description:

A Master Class of a Wall Map—De Fer's Map of the World

Rare 1730 Danet state of Nicolas De Fer's monumental double-hemisphere wall map of the world, first published in 1694.

De Fer's map is one of the most decorative wall maps of the world which is reasonably obtainable to the collector. First published in 1694, the map was periodically updated with the newest cartographic discoveries over the next four decades. This state was published by Guillaume Danet, de Fer's son-in-law.

Engraved by Hendrik van Loon, with decorative embellishments designed and engraved by Nicolaus Guerard, the map is one of the most enduring and iconic French wall maps of the world and would have hung in the salons and libraries of the French aristocracy during the reigns of Louis XIV and Louis XV.

Among the most interesting revisions from earlier states are the additions in Australia and New Zealand. Australia now includes a southern coastline with a curiously large depiction of Van Diemen's Land. New Zealand has been relocated about thirty degrees further to the west; it has more place names and a longer shoreline.

In Northeastern Asia, a strange appendage stretches southward toward Japan. The curving peninsula is "*Terre d'Eso ou d'Yeco.*" Farther east are two islands labeled, "*Terre de la Compagnie*" and "*Terre vue par Dom Jean de Gama.*" The latter continues in the North Pacific in the western hemisphere, suggesting a landmass as wide as a continent.

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The other area with major revisions is in North America. California is no longer shown as an island and the Northwest Coast has been reworked. The Strait of Anian remains, suggesting a Northwest Passage.

In the interior of Africa, The Nile River, then as now one of the most important rivers in the word, 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. However, De Fer also strikes a note of caution and states along the equator that it is better to leave this space blank rather than fill it with unknown and imaginary particulars.

At sea, in addition to many ships, are two ships' tracks. 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 voyage to and from Siam from the Cape of Good Hope, and his initial route from Brest to the Cape.

Also included is the Pacific portion of 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 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 border of the hemispheres are notes. To the west, the running text identifies the various climactic zones: torrid, frigid, and temperate. On the eastern hemisphere is a commentary on the choice of the prime meridian under the reign of Louis XIII, which passes through *l'Isle de Fer* (Ferro Island).

The surrounding decorations are almost as much an appeal for this map as are the geographical features. Along the top are images of Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Venus, and Mercury, based upon the ideas of Cassini. Larger are plans of the sun, according to Kircher, and the moon, according again to Cassini.

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At the top is a large tableau which displays gods and goddesses, zodiac figures, winds and mythological scenes, all after heavenly pursuits. The lower part of the map depicts mankind at terrestrial pursuits all around the world.

The cartouche, at the lower center, between the hemispheres. Two women, in classical garb, are surrounded by objects signifying bounty and mapmaking. Cherubs are around, aiding them.

Rarity

De Fer’s world map is rare in all its states. This is only the second example of the 1730 state that we have offered in the past twenty years.

Detailed Condition:
Several minor abrasions. Minor loss at top left corner, expertly restored.