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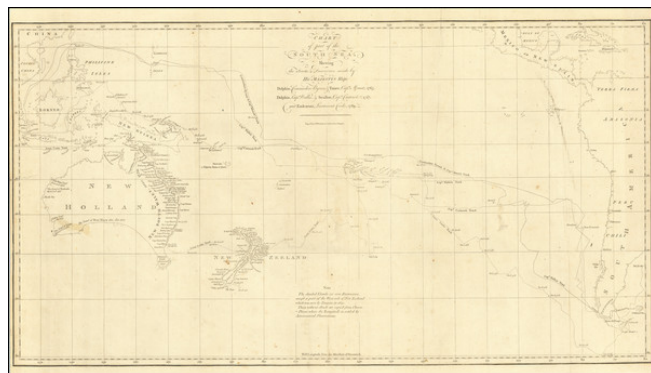
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Chart of Part of the South Seas Shewing the Tracts & Discoveries made by His Majestys Ships

Stock#: 82326
Map Maker: Cook
Date: 1773
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 26 x 14 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Across the Pacific—The New Map of the Pacific from Cook's First Voyage Account

Fine example of the Pacific map showing the tracks of not only Lieutenant James Cook's first voyage, but also those of Commodore Byron, Captain Wallis, and Captain Carteret.

The map stretches from South America to the Chinese coast, taking in the breadth of the world's largest ocean. Engraved by William Whitchurch, it appeared in the official voyage account chronicling British exploration in the 1760s.

The map shows the reconceived understanding of the Pacific, one which includes the east coast of Australia, a complete New Zealand, and Tahiti and the Society Islands. British toponyms pepper these coasts, showing the extent to which the British ships *Dolphin*, *Tamar*, *Swallow*, and *Endeavour* stamped the Pacific with their influence in a short decade.

The novelty and importance of these additions is underlined by the shading of shores new to European maps. A note explains, "The shaded Lands are new Discoveries, except a part of the West side of New Zealand, which was seen by Tasman in 1642." The shading covers all the areas mentioned above, as well as parts of New Guinea, New Ireland, and New Britain.

The chart was printed as part of the official account of Cook's first voyage, which was edited by the literary critic John Hawkesworth and underwritten by the British Admiralty. *An Account of the Voyages undertaken by the order of His Present Majesty for making Discoveries in the Southern Hemisphere...* (London: W. Strahan and T. Cadell, 1773) recounted the voyages of Byron, Wallis, Carteret, and Cook in two volumes interspersed with engraved illustrations and maps. The Hawkesworth account was an instant



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success and was quickly translated into the other major European languages.

While Cook's voyage is today the best-known, the other voyages in the volume would have been of interest at the time as well; in addition, the other commanders, like John Byron (grandfather to the poet Byron) would have then been more significant figures than Cook, who was a lieutenant at the time he was selected for the voyage to observe the Transit of Venus.

Byron first entered the Pacific as a midshipman with Anson's squadron in 1740. While Anson went on to circumnavigate and capture a Spanish treasure galleon, Bryon's ship, *Wager*, ran aground and faced a nightmare of privation, mutiny, and murder. However, this Pacific experience did recommend Byron for his later circumnavigation command.

In 1764, Bryon was secretly dispatched to search for a stopover station in the southwestern Atlantic and then to search for the Northwest Passage. He did contact the Falklands, which sparked controversy with France and Spain, searched for Patagonian giants, passed through the Strait of Magellan, and then zipped across the Pacific, conducting the fastest circumnavigation to that date.

Upon his return to England, his ship and some of this crew, including Philip Carteret, immediately prepared for another voyage, this one public. Samuel Wallis commanded Byron's *Dolphin*, while Carteret was to accompany in the *Swallow*. However, the *Swallow* was practically un-seaworthy. After a torturous passage through the Strait of Magellan, Wallis and the *Dolphin* streaked northward, eventually landing at Tahiti, the first European ship to do so. Carteret, now alone, led the *Swallow* through higher latitudes, one of the first to take such a southerly route across the Pacific.

By the time Wallis returned, another voyage was already in the planning. This one was to observe the Transit of Venus, which was particularly visible from the South Seas. Wallis was able to suggest Tahiti as the destination, which was taken up.

Detailed Condition: