



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

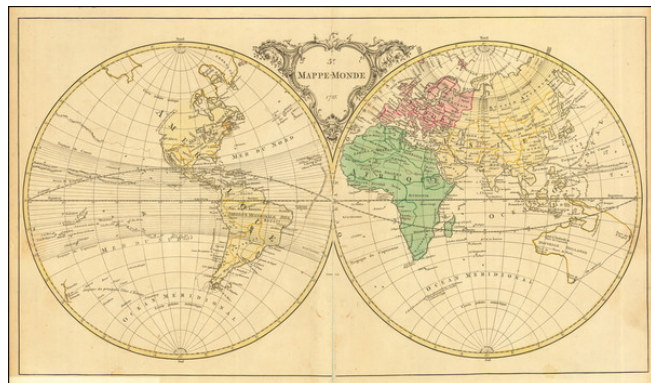
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3e. Mappe-Monde 1755.

Stock#: 82877
Map Maker: Palairret / Kitchin
Date: 1755
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 28.25 x 16 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Learning the World—An Instructional Atlas Map

Fine double-hemisphere map of the world, the final entry in a sequence of three world maps which featured in Jean Palairret's *Atlas méthodique, composé pour l'usage de son altesse sérénissime Monseigneur le Prince d'Orange et de Nassau* (1755).

Palairret, an accomplished teacher, tutored the children of George II of Britain and later served as the Agent to the Dutch States General in London. He gathered his pedagogical ideas for teaching geography in this atlas, which was sold in London, Amsterdam, Berlin, and the Hague. The maps were engraved by Thomas Kitchin, who frequently collaborated with Palairret. The atlas was meant to be used alongside a companion geography text.

Palairret thought that it was inappropriate to overload a pupil with data. In the preface to the atlas, he explains, "the maps are so loaded, so confused, or so small, that the eye finds and distinguishes only with difficulty, the considerable places, among those whose names put little, or not at all, to be noticed: hence, the disgust."

To combat this, Palairret included multiple maps of the same place, adding more and more detail to each iteration. A student was supposed to memorize all the information on a map before moving on to next. As he writes, again in the preface to the atlas:

The Atlas is made up of Maps of the same size as those of Mr de l'Isle. There are several for each country of the world, the knowledge of which is necessary or interesting; so that instead of presenting all that is essential at the same time and from a single point of view, the first map of a continent, or of a country, is only loaded as much as necessary, so that the objects are arranged in



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the memory, by degrees, and in the way in which one must know them, in order to study successfully. The second, by repeating the same things, contains new ones, and so on others, until they are sufficiently filled, without being too much.

The Maps are illuminated in a particular way, which will facilitate the study of the respective situation of the States, provinces, rivers, &c.

This method seems to have worked, as eight surviving puzzles made from these maps are in the collections of the Victoria & Albert Museum today. These dissected maps were made at the request of Lady Charlotte Finch, the Royal Governess, who commissioned them for the children of George III.

[The first world map](#) includes the names for oceans and continents, the equator and the ecliptic, the Tropics of Capricorn and Cancer, the Arctic and Antarctic Circles, the North and South Poles, and the directions of the compass. An ornate cartouche is included between the two hemispheres.

[The second world map](#) adds the climatic zones on the eastern hemisphere and the shading of the main trade winds between the tropics in the western hemisphere.

This third map completes the sequence. It includes place names, the tracks of important historical voyages, and the antipodes of significant European cities in the South Pacific, near the partial coast of New Zealand.

The Pacific Northwest is left largely blank. Greenland is connected to North America, making a Northwest Passage difficult to imagine. However, text on the unfinished coast in the northwest states, "we have no sure knowledge of the limits on this side."

There is no southern continent, but there are several curious configurations. In the North Pacific, north of Japan, are open shores near *Jedso*. This is *Terre de la Compagnie*, part of a series of chimeric islands in that area.

By far the strangest feature is the gargantuan outline of Australia, which extends far to the west to *Terre du S. Esprit*. This is an amalgamation of the Dutch encounter of what they called New Holland with Pedro Fernandes de Quiros' *Austrialia de Espiritu Santo*, which is actually Vanuatu, and New Guinea.

The ships' tracks show the routes of Spanish treasure galleons to and from Manila and Acapulco. Near these is the route of Anson, who led a circumnavigation in 1740-44 that captured one of these galleons. When these maps were made, in the early 1750s, the voyage was one of the most well-known in the world, thanks to the popularity of the 1748 voyage account of the expedition.



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Quiros' Espiritu Santo

Quiros had contacted Vanuatu on his second Pacific voyage of 1605. He thought it was part of a continent and told officials in Europe as much. He died before he could mount another expedition, but his ideas were reprinted in prominent voyage collections into the eighteenth century.

Cartographically, there was variation in the placement of a hypothetical eastern Australian coastline that included *Espiritu Santo*. One of the earliest maps to show this depiction seems to have been [Guillaume Delisle's 1714 map of the southern hemisphere](#). The map shows Espiritu Santo with the Jordan and San Salvador rivers at roughly 185°E (from an Atlantic prime meridian), but it is not connected to New Holland. Others also adopted the idea of an Australian continent stretching to Espiritu Santo, including Richard Cushee in his 38 cm. diameter terrestrial globe of 1731.

The idea of a hypothetical eastern coast, evident in the famed Bonaparte Tasman map, was revived in the 1740s and 1750s. One of the [world maps in John Campbell's collection, by Emmanuel Bowen](#), shows *T. de St. Esprit* at 150°E (Greenwich meridian) as part of a suggested eastern coastline for Australia.

In [1753, Bellin](#) connected Van Diemen's Land to Espiritu Santo (145°E, Paris meridian), but added a note explaining the link as unproven. [Robert de Vaugondy's map of 1756](#) also connects the two into a large continent with New Holland (Espiritu Santo at 170°E, with an Atlantic meridian). Interestingly, the latter map was included in Charles De Brosses' voyage collection, wherein De Brosses expressed his belief that Espiritu Santo was insular.

Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color