



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Planisphere General Pour Servir a l'Intelligence de la Navigation et du Commerce des Europeens, entreux et dans les deux Indes.

Stock#: 82957
Map Maker: Pellet
Date: 1780
Place: Geneva
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 12.5 x 8.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine French Atlas World Map with the Sea of the West

Striking map of the world on Mercator's Projection, showing a number of important explorers' routes.

The map appeared in Rigobert Bonne's *Atlas de toutes les parties connues du globe terrestre, dresse pour l'histoire philosophique et politique des établissements et du commerce des Européens dans le deux Indes*. The atlas was an accompaniment to the Abbé Raynal's influential *L'Histoire de deux Indes*, one of the first world histories.

Somewhat unusually, the Pacific is centered here. There are no Arctic or Antarctic lands, although there are unfinished coastlines near Spitzbergen and Russia and a *cote inconnue* northwest of Europe.

The north of North America is striking in its lack of completion and its fantastical inclusions. There is a Sea of the West and huge lakes stretching to the northeast, suggesting a possible inland Northwest Passage. These are "pretended discoveries of 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.

The letters recounted that Fonte had found an inlet near 53°N which led to a series of lakes. While sailing northeast, 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

Drawer Ref: Small Maps -
World

Stock#: 82957



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

**Planisphere General Pour Servir a l'Intelligence de la Navigation et du Commerce des
Europeens, entreux et dans les deux Indes.**

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 Joseph-Nicolas De L'Isle and Philippe Buache, thought the information conformed neatly to other recent discoveries and included Fonte on their maps.

Although published from ca. 1774, this map does not integrate the latest expeditions of Wallis or Cook, suggesting it was prepared earlier, perhaps in conjunction with the first edition of *L'Histoire de deux Indes* in 1770. This means that Tahiti is not included, that New Zealand is incompletely outlined, and that the east coast of Australia is absent.

There are several ships' tracks that criss-cross the map including several early-eighteenth century French voyages, the First and Second Kamchatka Expeditions to the Bering Strait (1728-1730, 1733-1743), the treasure galleon route between Acapulco and Manila, Mendaña's attempt to re-find the Solomons (1595), Magellan's pioneering circumnavigation (1519-1522), Tasman's initial European contact with New Zealand (1642-3), Le Maire and Schouten's voyage around Cape Horn (1615-1617), and Halley's voyages observing magnetic variation at the end of the seventeenth century.

Detailed Condition: