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[Tasman Discoveries]. *Orbis Terrarum Typus De Integro In Plurimis Emendatus Auctus, Et Icunculis Illustratus*

Stock#: 83872
Map Maker: Danckerts
Date: 1648
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 18.5 x 13 inches
Price: \$ 4,500.00



Description:

One of The Earliest Maps to Show Both Tasman Voyages

This rare, double-hemisphere map of the world by Danckerts has only recently been recorded by scholars.

The map is believed to have been published in 1648. If this date is correct then this map is amongst the first to show both of Tasman's voyages (1642-3, 1644), which were initially kept clandestine by the Dutch East India Company (VOC). His major findings were Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania), New Zealand, and the charting of much of the north coast of Australia.

The outline of Australia and its environs is an important feature of the map, but other details also command attention. There is no southern continent, interestingly, but it is labeled as *Terra Australis Incognita* and faint marks on the print suggest that the plate was reworked to eliminate a shoreline.

California is shown as an island (see below). Curiously, Japan is unfinished in the north. In the North Atlantic, near Greenland, is the mythical island of Frisland (see below).

Between the geographic hemispheres are smaller circles. The one near the top is labeled as the *Polus Arcticus*, but it shows the heliocentric model of the solar system. At bottom, at the *Polus Antarcticus*, is a geocentric model.

In the corners are vignettes showing tranquil scenes. At top are angels, cherubs, chariots, and griffins in the sky. The bottom left shows Poseidon in the sea, while the bottom right has a pastoral landscape filled



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with the bounty of the earth.

The map has the same title as the early Visscher bible world maps (Shirley, map 401 and 414), and the same decorations in the corners as the famous Visscher-Berchem world map (Shirley, map 406) of 1656. It was only identified in the corrigenda to Shirley's catalog of world maps at the turn of the twenty-first century (map 372A).

Tasman's voyages and the Dutch encounter with Australia

Whereas the Portuguese were the first Europeans to tap the lucrative resources of the East Indies, other European powers quickly joined the race. The VOC, founded in 1602, was based in Amsterdam with a local headquarters in Batavia (Jakarta).

Dutch ships roved the waters of the Indian Ocean. A few crossed the sea at southern latitudes, taking advantage of the winds of the roaring forties, which put them on a collision course with the continent of Australia, then still unknown to Europeans. These ships were following the Brouwer Route to Jakarta, so-called because it was explored in 1611 by Hendrick Brouwer. Less than five years later, it was named the prescribed route from the Cape of Good Hope to Java and following the route was compulsory for all VOC ships, unless they were destined directly for China and Ceylon, rather than Batavia.

Ships were supposed to turn north when they sighted Amsterdam Island or St. Paul Island, both of which are featured on this map. However, the methods for calculating longitude in the seventeenth century were imprecise and some ships continued east, eventually running afoul of the Australian coast.

The first of these to contact West Australia was the *Eendracht* in 1616, which was blown off course en route to the East Indies. It was commanded by Dirk Hartog and Hartog's landing was the first recorded European landing on the western coast of Australia. It is marked here with *Dirck Hartogs re*. The crew commemorated their discovery by erecting a post with a pewter dish inscribed with their ship's information—the earliest physical record that historians have of any European landing in Australia.

Other voyages also sighted or landed in Western Australia in the 1620s. This map references that of the *Leeuwin* in 1622 and of Pieter Nuyts, who commanded the *Gulden Zeepaert* along the southern coast in 1627. *I. d. Edels lant* refers to Jacob d'Edel who, in the *Amsterdam*, along with Frederik de Houtman in the *Dordrecht*, came within sight of the western coast in 1619. The *F. Houtmans Abrolhos* are an archipelago named for the navigator who sighted them, or at least it was Houtman who reported the islands to the VOC. The islands became infamous after the *Batavia* shipwrecked there in 1627. The mutiny and massacre that became *Batavia's* fate fascinated all of Europe, but also flagged the islands as treacherous for ships,



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which is why they deserve such attention on charts. Also included is the shoal sighted by and named for the *Tortelduyf* in 1624.

By the 1640s, the officials of the VOC were eager to know the extent of the south lands and if they included any useful resources or willing trading partners. They appointed Abel Tasman to pursue these questions. Tasman's 1642-43 voyage was the first to circumnavigate the whole of the Australasia region, thus proving it was a separate entity unconnected from a mythical, and massive, southern continent. He surveyed the south coast of Tasmania, which he called Van Diemens Land after the VOC governor of Batavia, and the western coast of New Zealand, as well as the Tonga and Fiji Archipelagos. While important for geography, his voyage was nevertheless a disappointment to the VOC, as it netted no new commercial opportunities.

His second voyage proved even less successful. He was supposed to find a passage south of New Guinea to the east coast of Australia, but he missed the strait and instead thought it a bay. He did, however, more fully chart Australia's northern coastline, which had only been sporadically encountered to that point. Previously, information for the north coast, especially for portions of the coasts in what it today Queensland, Australia, come from the voyage of the Dutch vessel *Duyfken* in 1605-06. Under the command of Willem Janszoon, the *Duyfken* explored the eastern shore of the Gulf of Carpentaria, just below the Cape York Peninsula, a venture which was famously the first recorded European contact with Australia.

Rarity

This map is rarely seen on the market. This is only the third example of the map we have offered in the past twenty years.

Detailed Condition: