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Mappemonde a l'usage du Roy Par Guillaume Delisle Premier-Geographe de S.M. . . . 1720

Stock#: 85531
Map Maker: De L'Isle / Buache
Date: 1755 circa
Place: Paris
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 25.5 x 17.5 inches
Price: \$ 1,800.00



Description:

Celebrating the Geographic Encounters of the Eighteenth Century, including the Controversial Sea of the West--Rare, Variant State!

Fine example of Buache's enhancement of Guillaume De L'Isle's double-hemisphere map of the world. This state has the outline of Buache's Antarctic lands removed, although his notes on the existence of a southern continent remain.

Originally published in 1720, Buache, De L'Isle's son-in-law, augmented this state of the map, adding significant new geographic information in the North Pacific and his own geographic theories about Antarctica.

The map is elegantly decorated with a ribbon scroll revealing the title and surrounding the coat of arms of the Bourbons, France's rulers. While dedicated to the King, it was made for the scientific elite. As revealed in the cartouche in the lower center, De L'Isle originally made the map for the *Mémoires de l'Académie royale des sciences*, the publication of France's scientific body. This state has been updated with details presented by Buache to the *Académie* in the early 1750s, when he was working especially on hypothesizing the likely shape of Antarctica and Alaska, as well as publicizing the Sea of the West.

Some of the most interesting geography is that of the mythical islands of the North Pacific (see below) and Australia. The west coast is labelled according to Dutch encounters with the continent in the early seventeenth century. The east coast is suggestively filled in, creating a large landmass that includes New Guinea, Van Diemen's Land, and Quiros' *Terre Australe du S. Esprit* (see below).



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In the north of Australia is *Carpenterie*, so named in 1623 by Jan Cartensz after Pieter de Carpentier, the VOC governor of the East Indies at that time. Farther west and south is *Terre d'Endracht*. The Endracht was the second recorded European ship to contact Australia (1616). In the southwest is *Terre de Leuwin*, named for the *Leeuwin*, whose crew charted some of the southwest coastline in 1622. *Terre de Nuits* is named for Pieter Nuyts, a Dutch navigator who commanded the *Gulden Zeepaert* along the southern coast in 1627.

On a [previous state of this map](#), New Zealand is connected by a dotted line to a large Antarctic island. It was Buache's theory that there were two southerly landmasses. Here, however, the outlines of the island have been removed. Notes remain, however, that explain Buache's conception of what might lie at the South Pole. He hypothesized, here and [on other maps](#), that the southern pole must contain a frozen sea, fed by mountain ranges and huge rivers in order to produce icebergs of the size reported by Jean-Baptiste Charles Bouvet de Lozier, Edmond Halley, and others (see below).

The map is also a chronicle of the routes of a number of important explorers, showing the tracks of Magellan (1520), Mendaña (1595), Quiros (1605), Le Maire (1615), Tasman (1642), Halley (1700), the *St. Louis* (1709), the *St. Antoine* (1710), and Bouvet (1738-9).

This edition also incorporates the Russian discoveries in Alaska, as well as Buache's ideas about the interior geography of the Pacific Northwest. The first (1728-30) and second (1722-41) Bering Expeditions redrew the known features of the far northern Pacific by encountering and charting the Alaskan mainland and islands, as well as the Bering Strait. Buache incorporated this information, as well as that of more dubious sources, like the Admiral de La Fonte's letters, in a [series of maps produced in the early 1750s](#). The speculative geography is repeated here, including Fonte's inlet and lakes, as well as the findings of Juan de Fuca and Martin Aguilar.

Near the Sea of the West (see below) is the label, "*Foussang des Chinois*." This note stems from the work of French Orientalist Le Guignes, who hypothesized that the Chinese arrived in the New World over a millennium before the Europeans, most famously in his 1761 work, *Recherches sur les Navigations des Chinois du Cote de l'Amerique, et sur quelques Peuples situés a l'extremite orientale de l'asie*. Le Guignes was named a fellow of the Royal Society of London in 1752 and his work was well known across Enlightenment Europe, as evidenced here.

States of the map

There are at least four states of this map:



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- The first is the 1720 world map as published by Guillaume De L'Isle.
- The second, dated 1745, is Buache's re-release of the original map with his imprimatur in the lower right corner.
- The third, dated 1755, is Buache's update with the changes in the North Pacific and the Pacific Northwest of North America, as well as the outline of the southerly landmasses in Antarctica.
- The fourth, dated ca. 1755, is the same as the third state, except that the outlines of the Antarctic islands have been removed.

The Sea of the West

The 1592 voyage by Juan de Fuca is celebrated as discovering the Salish Sea for Europeans. Of course, de Fuca's travels are little known, and it is uncertain if he ever even sailed into the straits which now bear his name. Navigators such as Cook doubted him, but it now seems that de Fuca's account of his voyage matches strongly with the geography of this area. De Fuca describes a large bay with numerous archipelagos in which he spent many days sailing. Intriguingly for those seeking a Northwest Passage, he described a vast inland sea which he saw but did not reach.

This idea of an inland sea or bay was picked up by Guillaume De L'Isle, who drew several conjectural maps which included a Sea of the West, though these were never printed. The myth of the Sea of the West was picked up again later in the eighteenth century, when Philippe Buache and Joseph-Nicolas De L'Isle, Guillaume son-in-law and brother, respectively, began to incorporate the feature in their own maps in the early 1750s. The exact nature of this Sea varied from map to map, but the grandest ideas depicted a vast body of water stretching nearly to the Mississippi.

While not all maps of the period depicted such a sea, many did. Russian exploration to the northwest was the primary reason this short-lived myth was dispelled, even though initial voyages had not ruled out such a bay. [Gerhard Muller's map](#) is perhaps the most influential of the period to not show this bay, and his work was responsible for laying the cartographic foundations for a Pacific Northwest we now recognize today.

Quiros and Espiritu Santo

This map adopts a particular and somewhat peculiar configuration for Australia that includes a prospective eastern coastline which extends all the way to 180°E. Two rivers flow to that far shore, the Jordan and the St. Salvador.

These rivers are part of *Terre Australe du St. Esprit*. This toponym connects the speculative coastline to



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the voyages of Pedro Ferdinand de Quiros at the turn of the seventeenth century. Quiros was a skilled pilot who accompanied Alvaro de Mendaña on his second voyage to the Solomons in 1595-6 (the first voyage took place in 1567-9).

After returning to Spain, Quiros convinced authorities that he could find *Terra Australis*, the southern continent, if they gave him ships and supplies. He set out in 1605 and eventually landed in Vanuatu. He mistook one of the islands for the fabled continent and called it *Austrialia de Espiritu Santo*. The largest island in the chain is still called *Espiritu Santo* today.

Quiros intended to set up a colony on the supposed continent. He performed a series of elaborate possession rituals and founded a city he called *Nueba Hierusalem*. The "city" was nestled between two rivers which Quiros called the Jordan and the San Salvador (likely today's Jordan and Vitthié Rivers). However, his crew forced him to leave. Quiros returned to Mexico, but his second-in-command sailed west, through the strait now bearing his name. Due to state secrecy, however, the strait remained largely unknown until the 1760s.

Upon his return, Quiros revved up his campaign, lobbying once again for a voyage to return to his supposed southern continent. To gain support, Quiros wrote at least fifty memorials to advertise his successes and lay out his plans. Fourteen of these were printed between 1607 and 1614.

The most widely circulated was the *Eighth Memorial*. In it, he describes *Austrialia de Espiritu Santo* to be as wide as Europe, Asia Minor, the Caspian Sea, and Persia combined, "in its outline it quarters the entire Globe." Printed in Madrid in 1608 and Seville in 1609, the *Eighth Memorial* was reprinted in 1612 by Dutch cartographer Hessel Gerritsz in his *Detectio Freti Hudson*.

Quiros' discoveries remained tantalizing and would be revived by geographers for the next two centuries. For example, in the mid-1740s, in his reissue of Harris' *Navigantium atque Itinerantium Bibliotheca*, John Campbell explained that it was likely that New Guinea and Van Diemen's Land were all disparate parts of a large *Terra Australis* that connected to New Holland. His main source to back up this theory was Quiros' memorials.

Quiros also featured in other prominent voyage collections of the mid-eighteenth century, namely Charles de Brosses' *Histoire des Navigations aux Terres Australes* (Paris: Durand, 1756) and Alexander Dalrymple's *An Historical collection of the several voyages and discoveries in the South Pacific Ocean* (London, 1769-71).

A hypothetical eastern coastline for Australia



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Cartographically, there was variation in the placement of a hypothetical eastern 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 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 De Brosse's voyage collection, wherein De Brosse expressed his belief that *Espiritu Santo* was insular.

Detailed Condition: