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Hemisphere Occidental . . . (and) Hemisphere Oriental Dresse en 1720 pour l'usage particulier du Roy sur les Observations Astronomiques et Geographiques . .

Stock#: 85886
Map Maker: De L'Isle / Buache
Date: 1745
Place: Paris
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG
Size: 20 x 20 inches (each)
Price: SOLD



Description:

Striking Mid-Eighteenth-Century Hemispheric Maps

Fine examples of the 1745 state of De L'Isle's maps of the Western and Eastern Hemispheres.

Originally prepared by Guillaume De L'Isle in 1720, and printed in 1724, they were re-released by his son-in-law, Philippe Buache. While Buache updated later states, this 1745 state remains true to the first state and only adds his imprimatur.

The Western Hemisphere and the persistence of geographic myths

When originally issued, the western hemisphere included one of the earliest peninsular projections of California after Kino, in a configuration which became a standard for other mapmakers throughout the century.

While California is no longer an island, other quasi-myths remain. For example, Hudson's Bay is opened to the west, suggesting a possible Northwest Passage. In the Atlantic, an inscription reads, "*Isle de Bus cidevant Frisland.*" This refers to two chimeric islands, Bus and Frisland (see below). To the southeast is the *Roche de Bresil*, another changeable feature (see below). In the North Pacific, a coastline meanders from the western edge of the hemisphere; this is De Gama Land, yet another specious landmass that supposedly stretched to the size of a continent (see below).

Near the Californian coast is Quivira, which refers to the Seven Cities of Gold sought by the Spanish explorer Francisco Vasquez de Coronado in 1541. In 1539, Coronado wandered over what today is Arizona and New Mexico, eventually heading to what is now Kansas to find the supposedly rich city of Quivira.



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Although he never found the cities or the gold, the name stuck on maps of southwest North America, wandering from east to west.

All of these places that are now understood as mythical were still up for debate in the eighteenth-century. De L'Isle was one of the most discerning geographers of his day, so their inclusion here underlines just how conjectural map compilation was. The map remains an excellent example of cartographic practice from one of the leading practitioners of the period.

The Eastern Hemisphere and Dutch encounters with Australia

De Gama land and the associated Compagnie's Land and Staten Land are both to the north of Japan. They are also east of a curious peninsula on the mainland, *Terre D'Eso ou D'Yeco*. This is Yesso, which refers to Hokkaido. Often shown as an over-large island, here it is shown as part of Asia, a rare configuration for the feature (see below). The extension of Yesso to the east also creates space for the Sea of Korea seen here.

The South Pole on both hemispheres is left empty, although they are labelled as the *Terres Australes ou Antarctiques*, or the Antarctic or Austral lands.

The major feature of interest in this hemisphere is the unfinished outline of *Nouvelle Hollande*, or New Holland (Australia). It nearly extends to New Guinea and is populated with mainly Dutch toponyms. Whereas the Portuguese were the first Europeans to tap the lucrative resources of the East Indies, other European powers quickly joined the race. The Dutch East India Company (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 became 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 included here. 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



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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 *Terre d'Endracht de la Concorde*. 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.

Only three years later, Jacob d'Edel, in the *Amsterdam*, along with Frederik de Houtman, in the *Dordrecht*, came within sight of the western coast. The *Abrolhos d'Houtman* 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, which is why they deserve such attention on charts

Other voyages also sighted or landed in Western Australia in the 1620s. This map references that of Gerrit Fredericsz De Wit (here *Vit*) in 1628, of the *Leeuwin* (here *Leuwin*) in 1622, and of Pieter Nuyts, who commanded the *Gulde Zeepaert* along the southern coast in 1627.

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 (here *Terre de Diemen*) 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. This first voyage is shown here with toponyms and the ship's track.

Tasman's 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.

Map as history of exploration



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The map can also act as a good overview of the history of maritime exploration to the early-eighteenth century. It includes the tracks of important voyages, including:

- Ferdinand Magellan commanded what became the first known circumnavigation of the world (1519-1522), although he died in the Philippines.
- Juan Gaetano (here Gaetan) crossed the Pacific from east to west in 1542.
- Alvaro de Mendaña led a Spanish expedition to the Solomon Islands in 1567-9, but his crew forced his return to Peru. Another attempt was made from 1595-6 to return to the Solomons, but they had not been charted accurately. Mendaña died on Santa Cruz, leaving his wife in charge of the settlement they had started. She decided to return to Spanish dominions and they arrived in the Philippines in early 1596.
- Pedro Fernandez de Quiros accompanied Mendaña on his second voyage and was a skilled pilot. After returning to Spain, he 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 on what is today Vanuatu. He mistook one of the islands for the fabled continent and called it *Australia de Espiritu Santo* (here *Terre Australe du St Esprit*). Quiros intended to set up a colony, but his crew forced him to leave.
- Jacques Le Maire, along with Willem Schouten, circumnavigated via Cape Horn in 1615-1617, the first to sail round South America instead of through the Straits of Magellan.
- As explained above, Abel Tasman's first expedition (1642-4) is shown here, the first to contact New Zealand.
- Edmond Halley commanded two South Atlantic expeditions in the late-seventeenth century to study magnetic declination. He also famously described icebergs, which are included on this map.
- The *St. Louis*, in 1708, was a French merchant enterprise. It was the first ship to cross from Cape Horn to the Cape of Good Hope.
- The *St. Antoine* was a French merchant vessel, the first non-Spanish voyage across the Pacific from west to east. The ship, commanded by Nicolas de Frondant, traded with Chile and Peru in 1709.

This is an aesthetically-pleasing and geographically intriguing world map tied to two of the century's most important mapmakers. It would make an important addition to any collection of world maps or early modern works.

Detailed Condition: