



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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(Manuscript Map of the South Pacific / Including The Discoveries of Cook, Roggeveen and others)

Stock#: 90850
Map Maker: Anonymous
Date: 1774 circa
Place: n.p.
Color: Pen & Ink
Condition: VG
Size: 26.5 x 14.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Analytical Mapping of the Pacific After The First of the Cook Voyages of Circumnavigation

Elegantly drawn manuscript map of the South Pacific, providing an excellent compilation of the first voyage of Captain James Cook through the Pacific, with the addition of information derived from other Pacific explorers.

Wrought in a crisp hand on laid paper, the map uses as a template the map which [was published with the official account of Cook's first voyage](#), but with significant deviations. The map is more than a copy. It also queries the stated geography. For example, Davis Land is all on its own in a stretch of ocean in the eastern portion of the map. The island was named for John Davis, an English buccaneer who supposedly saw land in the area in 1686. Someone has added here, in pencil, "*Oster Isl.?*" This translates to Easter Island.

The connection between the two is quite astute. Jacob Roggeveen's expedition encountered the island on April 5, 1722—Easter Sunday. They found a Polynesian people there and recorded their large statues—the island's famous moai. The island is one of the most remote inhabited places in the world, making it likely that the land that Davis saw nearby and that which Roggeveen recorded was the same. Cook visited on his second expedition, in 1774.

This map was likely drawn by a German scholar or well-informed amateur who was eagerly comparing the latest publications on Pacific exploration. The author overlaid their own conclusions with information presented on the map, making this a fascinating survival of geographic analysis.

A fascinating artifact from the last decades of the Age of Discovery.



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Detailed Condition: