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Mappa Totius Mundi Adornata juxta Observationes Dnn Academiae Regalis Scientiarum

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Stock#: 91392
Map Maker: Walch
Date: 1787
Place: Augsburg
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 24.5 x 17.75 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

A German Ornamental View of the World

Scarce, striking double-hemisphere map of the world, engraved by Joannes Walch in Augsburg and published by Johann Martin Will.

The map is based on a much-earlier world map published by the great French geographer Guillaume De L'Isle, which explains why the ships' routes that are included predate this map by several decades. However, there are also recent updates, such as the shape of New Zealand, the east coast of Australia, the toponyms and shape of Alaska, and the presence of the South Georgia and the Sandwich Islands. These show knowledge of the recent voyages of James Cook (1769-1771, 1772-5, 1776-1780) (see below).

This odd configuration is explained in the title cartouche. Walch mentions that other maps by Lotter are also sold by his publisher, Will. Tobias Conrad Lotter was a German mapmaker who had brought out his own version of [De L'Isle's world map in 1775](#). Walch seems to have used Lotter's other maps to update this one, changes Walch explains in a geography primer advertised in the cartouche in the bottom center of the map.

The northwest of North America and the northern Pacific is of particular interest here. The rough shape of Alaska is determined by Cook's third voyage, which sought the Northwest Passage. A route into the far north, where the shores are undefined, is named for the navigator.



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Korea is well delineated, but nearby is a huge peninsula called, *Terra Yedso*, a misunderstanding of the geography of Hokkaido. The unfinished *Terre de la Compagnie* is nearby, as are lands supposedly seen by *Dom Ioan de Gama*. All of these features are linked to the search for large lands in the area in the seventeenth century (see below).

The toponym *Stachtan Nitad* and the mention of Bering and *Tschirikow* (Chirikov) show familiarity with the Russian voyages to the area in the mid-eighteenth century (see below). All of the area is labeled as Littoral Russian America.

While there is no southern continent, Australia is shown in a recognizable form, although Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) is shown as connected. The Bass Strait was not charted until the turn of the nineteenth century.

Many ships' tracks criss-cross the waters. In the Indian Ocean is that of the Frenchman Chaumont. In 1685-6, Alexander, the Chevalier de Chaumont, led a delegation from France to Siam, which today is known as Thailand. This was the second official French trip to Siam; Chaumont was to deliver two ambassadors and to collect delegates from the first delegation of 1684. The route marked here is Chaumont's voyage to and from Siam from the Cape of Good Hope.

In the Pacific, there are mentions of Spanish navigators (or those who sailed for the Spanish Crown), like Gaetano (1542). His path was forged by Magellan and his crew, who performed the first circumnavigation in 1519-1522 (Magellan died in the Philippines). Mendaña is mentioned twice; Álvaro de Mendaña y Neira led two voyages of discovery into the Pacific in 1567 and 1595 in search of *Terra Australis*.

The Dutch are also well represented. After Magellan's voyage, Olivier van Noort led the first Dutch circumnavigation (1598-1601). Following his crew's return, the Dutch East India Company (VOC) declared the Straights of Magellan as their own, disallowing non-VOC ships from entering. In an attempt to circumvent these restrictions, the merchant Isaac LeMaire financed a voyage to find an alternative route in 1615. William Schouten and Jacob Le Maire, Isaac's son, entered the Pacific from the West via a straight that sent their ships around Cape Horn, which they named for their port of departure in the Netherlands. Le Maire's name was chosen for the Strait, while the island they passed by received the name of Staten Landt (here *Terra Statum*).

Perhaps the best known of the explorers chronicled here is Abel Tasman. The early seventeenth century saw several Dutch encounters with a land they called New Holland. 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



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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.

Finally, there are English voyages shown here. First is Dampier's circumnavigation, with a date of 1686. This would have been during the buccaneer's first circumnavigation, which took a dozen years; he eventually circled the world three times. The other is a track labeled as by a "skillful English sailor" crossing the Pacific and approaching the Philippines. This is likely a reference to Anson's circumnavigation (1739-1744), when the British commander captured a Spanish treasure galleon.

The two hemispheres are accompanied by polar projections and astronomical models. The title cartouche is adorned with depictions of figures representing Africa and America (left) and Asia and America (right).

Rarity

This map is unusual and intriguing. It is also rare; this the first time we have ever offered it. OCLC lists only one example, at the Thüringer Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek.

Detailed Condition: