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Nouvelle Carte Des Decouvertes Faites par Des Vaisseaux Russiens Aux Cotes Inconnues De L'Amerique Septentrionale . . . 1758

Stock#: 94104
Map Maker: Muller
Date: 1758 (1771)
Place: Halle
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 13.75 x 10 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Debunking The Myth of the Sea of the West

Rare reduced version of Gerhard Friedrich Muller's map, first published in 1758 in St. Petersburg.

Gerhard Friedrich Muller's 1754 map, which emerged from Russian voyages, and the geographical contributions of Joseph Nicolas De L'Isle, particularly in the conception of the 'Sea of the West'. The map confirmed the existence of a body of water separating Asia from America, settling a long-standing geographical dispute. Further, it presented a relatively accurate depiction of the Alaska Peninsula and the Aleutian chain, establishing a solid foundation for the exploration of the northern territories.

Joseph Nicolas De L'Isle, a prominent French geographer and astronomer, played a significant role in this period of geographic discovery. Invited by Peter the Great, he served as a key figure in the Russian Academy of Sciences and actively participated in several expeditions. His intimate knowledge of Russian explorations and discoveries dovetailed with the work of Muller, forming a rich tapestry of geographic knowledge.

De L'Isle's departure from Russia led to a further flourish of cartographic innovation. He carried with him a wealth of knowledge about the northern regions, which he incorporated into subsequent maps. One of his most controversial contributions was the hypothesized 'Sea of the West,' a large body of water proposed to exist in the western part of North America. Ironically, his departure occurred just prior to the discovery of additional information, which is embodied in Muller's maps.



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The Sea of the West became a focal point in De L'Isle's cartographic narrative. While the Sea of the West would ultimately prove mythical, its conceptualization underscores the vibrant spirit of exploration and discovery that defined the era.

The present map, borrowed from the 1758 issue, carries subtle changes in the title; notably, the word "Russes" has been switched to "Russiens," and the 1758 date is displayed prominently in the title cartouche. This version is visually identical in most other aspects to the original, preserving the intricate details and geographical insights that made the 1754 map a cartographic landmark.

The map is featured in Volume 31 of "Uebersetzung der allgemeinen Welthistorie, die in Engeland durch eine Gesellschaft von Gelehrten ausgefertigt worden" by Siegmund Jakob Baumgarten, published in 1771. This work, roughly translating to "Translation of the general world history, which has been drawn up in England by a society of scholars," is a German adaptation of an expansive English historical work, underlining its significance and relevance to the broader understanding of world history during this period. The map's specific contributions to geographical knowledge, particularly regarding the separation of Asia and America and the nascent understanding of Alaska, fit seamlessly into the broader context of historical exploration and discovery.

Detailed Condition: