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L'America Divisa Ne' Suoi Principali Stati Di Nuova Projezione [Shows New Zealand and Cook's Tracks]

Stock#: 18495
Map Maker: Zatta
Date: 1776
Place: Venice
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 16 x 12.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Striking Italian Map of the Americas and the Pacific Ocean, tracing the voyage of Captain James Cook through New Zealand and the South Pacific and illustrating some of the great cartographic myths and inaccuracies of the late 18th Century.

The map shows several unusual projections of the Northwest Passage, based upon reports from the Russian explorations recently published in the Royal Academy of Sciences in Paris, although not consistent with the reports of J.N. De L'Isle. North America is projected far too wide, with a number of long rivers extending from the Oregon and Washington coasts to nearly the Mississippi. Salt Lake (Lago Salado) appears in the central continent, due to the miss-projection of the western coast. Indian tribes and native villages are noted in North and South America. New Zealand and the tracks of Cook's voyage of 1768-71 are noted, including Cook's navigation between the major islands of New Zealand.

The map includes the notation of a Chinese colony, "Fou-Sang," based upon Hui Shen's supposed voyage of 499 AD, in the area which would roughly be Puget Sound. This is one of the few maps which notes the supposed Chinese contact with the west coast of North America, which is reported upon in a number of generally discredited sources (most recently Menzies' 1421). According to Suarez, such mappings of the ancient Chinese colony reflect the whims of data-hungry 18th Century mapmakers.

As with many maps by Zatta, the decorative title vignette dominates the lower right corner. The pictorial cartouche shows a lion sleeping among flora.



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Antonio Zatta was a leading European cartographer and publisher, and his *Atlante Novissimo* (Venice, 1775-1785) was one of the most beautifully produced of all 18th Century atlases, with much space devoted to the new discoveries of Captain Cook. This map was issued as part of Zatta's monumental four volume *Atlante Novissimo* which contained 218 maps. Along with his contemporary, Giovanni Battista Pasquali, Zatta was responsible for the revival of taste in Venetian fine printing. Famous for his sardonic tone and as something of a controversialist, he was also well known for producing lavish editions of Italian classics and raccolte (collections of poems for special occasions).

Zatta's map is one of the better examples of 18th Century speculative cartography, making it one of the most sought after regional maps of the period and without doubt the most decorative. A gorgeous color example of both cartographic myth and the concrete voyages of Captain Cook.

Detailed Condition:

Printer's crease in lower right corner. Minor stains on verso. Pair of wormtracks well away from neatline in top margin.