



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## [Australia] A Complete Map of the Southern Continent Survey'd by Capt. Abel Tasman & depicted by Order of the East Indian Company in Holland In The Stadt House at Amsterdam

**Stock#:** 43198  
**Map Maker:** Bowen  
**Date:** 1744  
**Place:** London  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 19 x 15 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

The first English map of Australia which is derived directly from Thevenot's seminal map of 1663, showing the Dutch discoveries in the region.

Bowen's map is the first English map of New Holland. The map appeared in the revised edition of John Harris' *Complete Collection of Voyages*. Bowen's map adds the Tropic of Capricorn and two texts: the upper block emphasizes that no assumptions have been made, so white space abounds between New Guinea and Carpentaria, and between the mainland, Tasmania and New Zealand; the lower text starts: It is impossible to conceive a Country that promises fairer from its situation, than this of Terra Australia; no longer incognita, as this map demonstrates...

The map is derived directly from Thevenot's seminal map of 1663, showing the Dutch discoveries in the region done by the VOC. The Continent of Australia, as mentioned in the title, was surveyed by Capt. Abel Tasman.

Abel Janszoon Tasman was a Dutch seafarer, explorer, and merchant, best known for his voyages of 1642 and 1644 in the service of the Dutch East India Company (VOC). He was the first known European explorer to reach the islands of Tasmania and New Zealand, and to sight the Fiji islands. During his second voyage to the Pacific, he missed the Torres Strait between New Guinea and Australia, continuing his voyage westwards along the north Australian coast. He mapped the north coast of Australia making



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observations on the land (called New Holland). From the point of view of the Dutch East India Company, Tasman's explorations were a disappointment: he had neither found a promising area for trade nor a useful new shipping route. Although received modestly, the company was upset that Tasman didn't fully explore the lands he found, and decided that a more "persistent explorer" should be chosen for any future expeditions.

Bowen's map adds the Tropic of Capricorn and two texts. The upper block emphasizes that no assumptions had been made, so white space abounds between New Guinea, Carpentaria, and the mainland. The lower text suggests that it is impossible to conceive a country that promises fairer from its situation, than this of Terra Australia; no longer incognita, as this map demonstrates...

The text includes reference to 'the best climate in the world', 'according to Coll. Purry'. Purry was a former employee of the Dutch East India Company interested in attracting the Dutch, French and English to settle in Nuyts' land, to no avail. Only once Capitan Cook confirmed the assertions made by Purry did interest arise about the land.

**Detailed Condition:**

Evidence of misfold at right and some minor soiling.