



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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A Map of Canada and the North Part of Louisiana with the Adjacent Countrys.

Stock#: 51358
Map Maker: Jefferys
Date: 1762
Place: London
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG+
Size: 13 x 31 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Remarkable Coast to Coast Map of Canada & The Upper Midwest & Plains

Fine example of this detailed map of Canada and the northern part of the United States, extending from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the Pacific Ocean.

One of the few 18th Century maps of Canada to extend from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The map is of particular note for its inclusion of information from indigenous Indian Tribes, including a reference to the Indian Ochagach, one of the two most famous Indian map sources for this region.

There are numerous other Indian references at the headwaters of Rivers, including a track extending from Ft. Huillier, just west of the modern location of Minneapolis, to the Padouca Villages on the Upper Missouri River and a number of Forts constructed by the English and French to trade with or defend against the Indians in the region.

Along the Pacific Coast, a number of real and mythical features are shown, including:

- The Land which is supposed to be the Fou-Sang of Chinese Geographers
- Details from the apocryphal voyages of Admiral Font and Martin d'Aguilar
- The coastlines mapped by Vitus Behring and Captain Tchirikow.
- The Spanish sighting of the Sierra Nevada mountains in 1542, just north of San Francisco Bay.

The Indian Explorer Ochagach

At the headwaters of the Assiniboies or St. Charles River, there is a reference to Ochagach, "Hereabouts are supposed to be the Mountain of Bright Stones mention'd in the Map of the Indian Ochagach."



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The legend of Ochagach apparently began in 1728, with the report of an Indian by the name of Ochagach who described a journey to a great lake west of Lake Superior, with a river flowing from it to the west toward the sea. The noted French mapmaker Philippe Buache would ultimately report this story and create a sketch map, made by the "Savage Ochagache" and others, which depicts a continuous water route from Lake Superior in the east, to Lac Ouimpigon (Winnepeg) and the "Fl. de l'O" (River of the West). As noted by Don McGuirk in his work on the Sea of the West, the Buache map is

... important for being one of the few printed examples of manuscript Native American cartography. This second, smaller map is found above the first and is titled, "Réduction de la CARTE tracée par le Sauvage Ochagach et autres,/ laquelle a donné lieu aux Découvertes des Officiers François représentées dans la Carte cy jointe."

Buache's map derives from a manuscript map and report made by French Canadian fur trader and explorer Pierre Gaultier de Varennes et de La Vérendrye (see above). In 1727, La Verendrye was the commanding officer of Fort Kaministiquia at Thunder Bay, Lake Superior. At this time, the French were actively seeking a portage or other water course which would take them to the Sea of the West or River of the West, both of which had been described and hypothesized by French explorers of the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. In the winter of 1728, La Verendrye received reports from the Cree Indians of the regions to the west. One informant, a Cree Chief named Tacchigis, described a great river of the west, as well as the Missouri River Valley, persuading La Verendrye of the necessity of mounting an expedition.

In preparation for the journey, La Verendrye arranged for a Cree guide (Ochagach) to lead the expedition. Ochagach drew a map of a canoe route from Lake Superior to Lake Winnepeg, with a note referencing the River of the West at its western extremity. In the same winter, La Verendrye reported a second group of Cree Indians visiting the fort whose leader, La Marteblanche, produced a nearly identical map. La Verendrye created a composite map from these three sources which was transmitted with his report of his discoveries first to the Governor of Canada and then on to France in 1730.

Rarity

The present map is quite rare on the market in two sheets. A one sheet version, lacking the western sheet, appears more frequently. This is only the second example we have seen with both sheets present.

An important map for Canadian Collectors.

Detailed Condition:



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Publisher's outline color, recently retouched. Two sheets joined (the western sheet often not seen with this map).