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Carte du Nord Est et du Nord West du Pole

Stock#: 84117
Map Maker: Bernard
Date: 1725 circa
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 12.5 x 7.5 inches
Price: \$ 375.00



Description:

Fine Eighteenth-Century Map of the Arctic

Elegant and finely-wrought map of "Northeast and Northwest of the Pole."

The map encompasses the polar region from Tartary to modern-day Nunavut to "Parts Unknown," with four fine compass roses and a simple yet attractive title cartouche.

The most eye-drawing feature is "The Northern Pole," located slightly off of center in the upper half of the map and surrounded by four compass roses that allow the viewer to keep track of north despite the map's 360° scope. The Arctic Circle is prominently represented. In the bottom left-hand corner, a simple legend, rendered in English—unlike the title, which is in French—explains the mapmaker's abbreviations.

The emergent nature of the information with which the mapmaker was working is represented by the incomplete outlines of the polar landmasses. Though some sections of the map, for example Iceland, are extremely well detailed, other sections are left blank. For the map's eighteenth-century viewers, much of this map would have represented regions at the very edge or beyond the frontier of European knowledge.

This map was derived from Moses Pitt's 1680 map, though it omits Pitt's decorative whaling scenes. The map retains Pitt's division of Greenland into three islands. Interestingly, the mapmaker also reproduces Pitt's English language place names, details, and legend, with a few exceptional French place names. These include notes on the movements of European polar explorers: "Here Hudson wintered 1611," "Here James wintered 1631," etc.

Detailed Condition: