



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

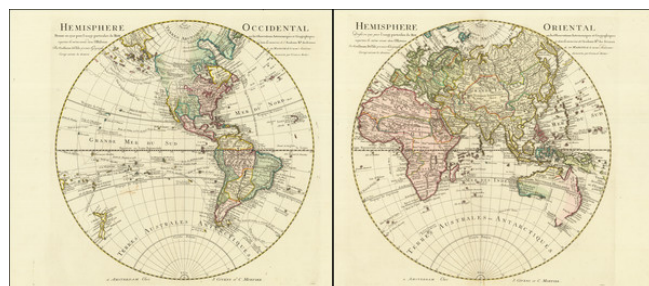
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## Hemisphere Occidental . . . [and] Hemisphere Orientale Dresse en 1720 pour l'usage particulier du Roy sur les Observations Astronomiques et Geographiques . . .

**Stock#:** 97945  
**Map Maker:** Covens & Mortier  
**Date:** 1770 circa  
**Place:** Amsterdam  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 18.5 x 19 inches (each map)  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

Rare late state of Covens & Mortier's maps of the eastern and western hemispheres, published in Amsterdam in about 1770.

Covens & Mortier's map captures a fascinating moment in the evolving efforts to improve the cartography the North Pacific in the second half of the 18th Century. After centuries of speculation and apocryphal reports and speculative cartography, the region began to come into focus in the first half of the 18th Century, with the Russian Expeditions. Two expeditions led by Vitus Behring (1728-30, 1733-43) explored Kamchatka and what is now Alaska, charting the strait between them. The first maps of the discoveries appeared in France in the early 1750s, followed by a German map by Gerhard Müller, a member of the second Kamchatka Expedition, first published in 1754 and distributed more widely in a 1758 edition. These maps, though they differed in many respects, show the strait between the continents and the westward thrust of the Alaskan mainland/archipelago.

The present map incorporates these Russian explorations and discoveries, but also adds in a speculative "Mer de L'Ouest" (Sea of the West). As noted in greater detail below, the Sea of the West and the debate between the major French and English mapmakers of the period, would create a prolific amount of writing and speculation, until both sides were proved dramatically inaccurate by the explorations of Captain James Cook, beginning in 1768.

The present maps benefit from Cook's explorations in Australia and New Zealand on his first voyage, but do not incorporate the information from Cooks' Third Voyage, during which time he discovered Hawaii.

The maps are noteworthy for the numerous important voyages of exploration depicted, including:



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**Hemisphere Occidental . . . [and] Hemisphere Orientale Dresse en 1720 pour l'usage  
particulier du Roy sur les Observations Astronomiques et Geographiques . . .**

- Magellan - 1520
- Gaetan - 1542
- Mendaña 1568 and 1598
- Quiros - 1605
- Le Maire - 1616
- Tasman - 1642
- Halley - 1700
- The St. Louis - 1708

In the Arctic Regions, Luke Fox's discoveries of 1631 and Middleton's discoveries of 1741 are noted, in search of the Northwest Passage.

**Detailed Condition:**