



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

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A Correct Chart of the Terraqueous Globe; on which are Described Lines Shewing The Variations of the Magnetic Needle in the most Frequented Seas, Originally Composed in the Year 1700, By the Celebrated Dr. Edmund Halley; Renewed by William Mountaine and James Dodson F.R.S. . . . 1756

Stock#: 32027
Map Maker: Laurie & Whittle

Date: 1794
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 55.5 x 21 inches

Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare and highly important late 18th Century World map, which provides an overview of the discoveries associated with the variations of the magnetic compass around the world, as first observed by Edmund Halley in 1700, subsequently updated by William Mountaine and James Dodson in 1756 and subsequently agumented by the French Astronomer Guillaume Joseph Hyacinthe Jean Baptiste Le Gentil de la Galaisière in 1765 and thereafter.

Halley's original discoveries created a systematic conceptual mapping of the variations of the magnetic compass at sea, allowing mariners to make navigational adjustments to their compass readings and furthering the science of accurately navigating at sea. As noted in their presentation to the Royal Society on March 20, 1755, it became apparent over time that Halley's observations made in 1700 were only reliable for a certain period of time, after which new observations were required. Mountaine and Dodson began making their observations in 1744 and over the course of the next 11 years, with the assistance of data compiled by the British Royal Navy and others, published an updated set of observations. These observations allowed them to amend and update Halley's original chart of the world, providing the results of the updated observations on the variations of the magnetic compass at sea in frequently used shipping regions and updating in a general fashion the cartographic accuracy of Halley's underlying map.

As a result of the work of Mountaine and Dodson, Halley's chart became a constant work in progress, which was subsequently updated by other scientists. The conception of a variation chart did not begin with Halley. The first such chart was constructed in 1530 by Spanish cosmographer Alonzo de Santa Cruz, from very imperfect observations. More than a hundred years later the astronomer, Halley, undertook, at the expense of the British government, three voyages into the Atlantic for the verification of certain physical



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data, the result of which was the production of a general variation chart on which the points where the navigator had found the same amount of variation were connected by curved lines.

Dodson and Mountaine of the F.R.S., subsequently constructed their revised chart from more than 50,000 actual observations made in different parts of the world. This variation chart was published and sold Mount and Page at their nautical warehouse on Tower Hill. In the 19th century charts, giving various magnetic elements flourished, with charts made by Sabine, Barlow, Erman, and Horner, as well as others computed according to Gauss' theory of terrestrial magnetism, include one prepared by the Hydrographic Office of the Admiralty in 1858, under the direction of Captain Sir F. J. O. Evans.

The work of Dodson and Mountaine was ultimately published in *An Account of the Methods used to describe Lines on Dr. Halley's Chart of the terraqueous Globe, showing the variation of the magnetic needle about the year 1756 in all the known seas, &c.* By Wm. Mountaine and James Dodson, was published in 1758.

Detailed Condition:

Flattened and cleaned, with minor restorations.