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North America, As Divided amongst the European Powers . . . 1774 (Includes Fou Sang!)

Stock#: 53827
Map Maker: Dunn
Date: 1778 circa
Place: London
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG
Size: 19 x 13 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The Myths & Legends of the West Coast of America

Fascinating map of North America, highlighting the lack of information known about the American West at the outset of the American Revolution.

The Northwest Coast of America immediately pre-dates the reporting from Captain James Cook's first Voyage and includes the reported Russian Discoveries. The map also pre-dates the earliest maps to identify the Bay of San Francisco, which had been discovered by the Spanish in 1769, but not yet disclosed in Europe.

Among the more interesting features are the appearance of the mythical River of the West, which suggested that prospect of a continuous river from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, which was within reach from the upper Missouri or via the river system leading to Lake Superior and Hudson's Bay.

Along the coast, the mythical discoveries of Admiral De Font and Juan de Fuca are noted, along with the entrance to the River of the West sighted by Martin d'Aguilar in 1603 (mythical).

Drake's discovery of California in 1578 is referenced, along with Drake's Harbor.

Further north, the map gives a credible accounting of the known discoveries of the Russians in Alaska and the Arctic regions.

Most unusual is the reference to the "Land which is supposed to be discovered by the Fousang of the



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Chinese Geographers." This note reflected the belief that Chinese mariners might have reached America, the location of the mythical colony of Fou-sang. According to some historians such as Charles Godfrey Leland and Joseph de Guignes (*Le Fou-Sang des Chinois est-il l'Amérique Mémoires de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres*, tome 28, Paris, 1761), the distances given by Hui Shen (20,000 Chinese li) would locate Fou-sang on the west coast of the American continent, near British Columbia.

Detailed Condition:

Minor fold splits, reinforced on verso.