



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

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**[Mount St. Elias and Mt Fairweather to Cape Decision, Sitka, Juneau and Prince
Frederick Sound] Cote Nord-Ouest De L'Amerique Reconne Par Cape. Vancouver Ve.
Partie**

Stock#: 62117
Map Maker: Vancouver

Date: 1799
Place: Paris
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 24.5 x 29 inches

Price: SOLD



Description:

One of the First Detailed Maps of the Alaskan Coast from Vancouver's Pivotal Voyage

Fine regional map of Alaska from the French edition of Vancouver's important voyage account. This is the first detailed printed map of this coastline; Vancouver's voyage completed pivotal surveying in much of the Pacific Northwest.

The map features the region from Mount St. Elias in the northwest, and Mount Fairweather, to Cape Decision in the southeast, Sitka, Juneau, and Prince Frederick Sound. It includes a track tracing Vancouver's journey south along the Alaskan coast, marked with the date. Elevation and mountainous regions are well-defined by relief shading and hachures.

The map includes three inset plans in the upper-right corner of the sheet, of Port Conclusion, Port Protection, and the entry to Cross Sound. These detailed plans include scale bars and sounding depths.



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Port Conclusion was where Vancouver finished his survey, while Port Protection was recently featured on a National Geographic reality TV show. Both are north of Ketchikan in southern Alaska. Cross Sound was originally named by Captain James Cook on his third expedition.

From 1791 to 1795, English naval officer and explorer George Vancouver led an expedition circumnavigating the globe. He spent significant time along the Pacific Coast of North America, from Baja, California, to the Gulf of Alaska and Vancouver Island. The voyage resulted in extensive, detailed charting of that area.

Vancouver's subsequent account of the expedition and its related maps, including this one, were first published in London in 1798 and distributed widely among European commercial publishers. They established many English place-names in the Pacific Northwest and, thus, projected English power onto the region. They also constituted the first published maps of Puget Sound, Vancouver Island, and the Columbia River.

A skilled navigator and explorer, Vancouver definitively eliminated the possibility of a Northwest Passage that terminated in the Canadian Pacific Northwest. Vancouver's voyage was the last, and longest, of the great Pacific voyages of the late eighteenth century. The present chart depicts the area explored in the summer of 1794, during the expedition's last season of surveying on the Northwest Coast.

Captain George Vancouver and the mapping of the Pacific Coast of North America

George Vancouver (1757-1798) was one of the most important explorers of the eighteenth century. He notably served on Cook's third expedition, where he gained valuable experience exploring and mapping the Pacific Northwest. In 1791, he was chosen to captain the *Discovery* and charged with a mission to discover and chart the vast areas of the Pacific that were still unknown, in part to locate a Northwest Passage between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. He was also instructed to enact a 1790 treaty between Spain and Great Britain that aimed to settle a land dispute in Nootka Sound, on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

The *Discovery* and its companion ship, the *Chatham*, left England in April 1791 and traveled to the Cape of Good Hope in Cape Town, South Africa. The expedition then continued to Australia, New Zealand, and Tahiti. Sailing across the Pacific to North America, Vancouver followed the coasts of Oregon and Washington northward.

Vancouver entered the Strait of Juan de Fuca, between Vancouver Island and Washington's Olympic



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Peninsula, in April 1792. Vancouver proceeded to survey every inlet and outlet on the west coast of the mainland, all the way north to Alaska.

In June 1792, around Vancouver, British Columbia, the expedition met with the Spanish expedition led by Dionisio Alcalá Galiano and Cayetano Valdés y Flores. In spite of the tensions that existed between Britain and Spain, the two parties exchanged maps and information. In late June and early July of that year, the Spanish and British parties cooperatively explored the Georgia Strait and the Discovery Islands.

Vancouver next sailed to Nootka Sound, which was already a major fur-trading center, and was disputed between Britain and Spain. There Vancouver met the great Spanish explorer, Juan Francisco Bodega y Quadra, but diplomatic efforts over the control of Nootka were inconclusive.

Vancouver then sailed south toward Oregon, and sent Lieutenant William Robert Broughton to explore the Columbia River. Vancouver continued south along the coast of Spanish Alta California and spent the winter in Hawaii.

In the spring of 1793, Vancouver returned to British Columbia and sailed northward, making detailed charts of the continental bays, inlets, and harbors north of Vancouver Island. He arrived at Alaska's Alexander Archipelago, charting and circumnavigating Prince of Wales Island and other islands and coastline in the area. He then sailed south to California, before, once again, wintering in Hawaii.

In 1794, Vancouver sailed far north to Cook Inlet, the northernmost point of his exploration, surveying Prince William Sound and encountering Russian settlements. From there he followed the shore southward, charting the islands and coastline along his path. The expedition headed to Mexico and Chile before navigating around Cape Horn to return to England in September 1795, thus completing a global circumnavigation.

The publication of Vancouver's account of the expedition, with its first detailed printed maps of the Pacific Northwest, including this sheet, greatly furthered understanding of navigational as well as diplomatic concerns in the area.

Detailed Condition: