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British Colonies in North America

Stock#: 68039
Map Maker: Wilkes
Date: 1797
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 7.5 x 9 inches
Price: \$ 495.00



Description:

Includes a Reference to New Denmark.

This map purports to show the extent of British colonial power in North America, which at present was limited to eastern Canada. The map extends from "New Greenland" to the upper Mississippi. Curious details and notes abound on the map, especially in the poorly charted western regions. This map was published by John Wilkes, a British printer who lived from 1750-1810

On the map, the source of the Mississippi River is shown as a Lake Bourbon. Tributaries of the river very nearly reach other rivers that flow into Hudson's Bay. An uncertainly drawn New Sea cuts through Labrador, it is unclear what this is meant to represent. Baffin's Bay closed, and "Prince Williams Land" extends far to the north. The Coppermine River, as mapped by Samuel Hearne in 1771, flows into "The Sea."

Canada is divided into six provinces on the map. Quebec only extends along the banks of the St. Lawrence



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river, wrapped around by "Labrador or New Britain." Manitoba and Nunavut are labeled as "New South Wales" and "New North Wales."

Near Buttons Bay on Lake Hudson appears the name New Denmark. This refers to a failed colonization attempt of the western Hudson Bay by the Danish explorer Jens Munk. Munk arrived in the bay in 1619 alongside sixty-five men and settled for the winter near the presently known Churchill River. Only three men, including Munk, would survive the spring return to Bergen. All of Munk's later journeys to reestablish the colony would be thwarted, and a permanent Danish colony was never founded in the region.

Rarity

We locate only one separate institutional copy of this map in the McGill Pugsley collection.

Detailed Condition:

Minor toning and very minor soiling to parts of the margin and image.