



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

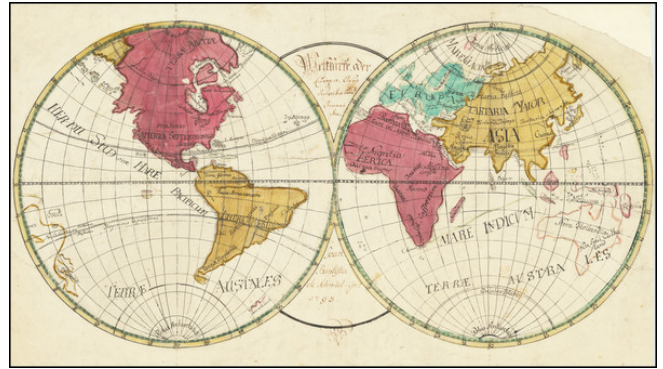
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[Manuscript World Map] Weltkarte oder Europa, Asia . . .

Stock#: 68619
Map Maker: Schmid
Date: 1793
Place:
Color: Pen & Ink with Wash Color
Condition: Good
Size: 19 x 9.5 inches
Price: \$ 1,400.00



Description:

Striking Eighteenth-Century German Student World Map

Colorful double-hemisphere world map completed as a student project by Joan Baptista de Schmid in grade one.

The geography on the map is eclectic and charming, the result of a young person's attempt to put their geography lessons to use. There are extraneous lines, tentative sketches, and quaint spelling errors (*Terrae Austales* in the western hemisphere), all providing a precious window into the attempts by Joan to depict the world beyond his classroom.

Africa, Asia, and Europe are well drawn, with regions and rivers labeled. North America extends far to the north, covering the Arctic Circle and North Pole. In the North Atlantic, Iceland is marked, as is the phantom island of Frislandia.

North America closely touches Asia in the northwest. A series of islands stretch across the far northern Pacific, and a phantom coast line is also drawn in. These could be references to De Gama's Land or Staten and Compagnies Land, geographical chimeras from the early modern period.

New Zealand and Australia are shown with vague shapes; perhaps Joan did not have access to many maps showing these areas. Maritime Southeast Asia is similarly drawn with a hesitant hand, substituting simple shapes for complex cartographies. In the far south of the western hemisphere, the Sandwich Islands, first charted by James Cook in 1775, are included as a squiggly coast.

Drawing maps was a common part of the curriculum for students across the world, dating from the later eighteenth century. Only a few of these map projects survive, however. In the US context, many of the student maps were made by young women, who also embroidered maps. This appears to be an assignment



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set in a Prussian school, which were institutionalized in the late-eighteenth century, one of the earliest free and compulsory education systems in the world.

Detailed Condition:

Part of upper right corner torn away and replaced. Several repaired tears.