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Carte des Terres Australes Comprises entre le Tropique du Capricorne et le Pole Antarctique . . . Augmentee de diverses vues Physiques c. 1754 (New Zealand part of Antarctica!)

Stock#: 71682
Map Maker: Buache
Date: 1757 (1770)
Place: Paris
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 12 x 9.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Overview of South Polar Exploration and Conjecture in the First Half of the Eighteenth Century

Remarkable map of the southern hemisphere, most notable for its depiction of Buache's conjectural Antarctic lands and interior sea. It also depicts New Zealand as a part of the *Terres Antarctiques*.

This map was Buache's second attempt at depicting the southern hemisphere. [The first edition of this map](#) lacked any attempt to map Antarctica. Instead, it consolidated the findings and routes of known voyages to that point and showed the vast space that Buache thought must be filled with a large continent.

Buache's map is discussed in depth by Geography Geek [here](#).

In this second edition of the map, Buache has sketched a conjectural depiction of what is now called Antarctica. The landmass is split into two with a large *Mer Glaciale* running through their middle. The smaller of the two is separated from Tierra del Fuego but extends north to land supposedly seen by Amerigo Vespucci in 1503 and that spotted by Bouvet de Lozier in 1739.

Across the frozen sea is the larger of the two of Buache's Antarctic lands. This one includes the *Terre des Perroquets*, supposedly contacted by Portuguese sailors, and *Terre de Gonneville*, an apocryphal coast created by the Abbe de Paulmier in the second half of the seventeenth century. It extends east, running



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well south of Van Diemen's Land, which had been skirted by Tasman in his voyage of 1642-3. Farther east in the Pacific the shore twists north to include New Zealand, which was also contacted by Tasman.

As with the earlier version of this map, outside the hemispheric projection is an account of the 1738-9 expedition of Bouvet de Lozier, which mentions the discovery of icebergs between two and three hundred feet high and half a league to two or three leagues in circumference. Bouvet's sighting of *Cap de la Circoncision* is near one of the entrances to the polar sea. The other opening into the inland sea, to the southwest of South America, was placed where the buccaneers Sharpe and Davis had reported icebergs in 1687. Buache believed that the icebergs must have derived from a floating ice sheet, as in the Arctic, which is explained in the note on the larger of the two Antarctic islands. This hypothesis led him to conclude that the southern continent was not a single landmass but two islands separated by a frozen inland sea, from which icebergs detached themselves to float northwards.

The inland sea theory was based upon work Buache had developed over a number of years. His ideas were presented to the *Académie des Sciences* in 1744, published as *Considérations géographiques sur les terres australes et antarctiques* in 1761, and republished in English in *The Gentleman's Magazine* in 1763. In it, he hypothesized that the southern pole must contain a frozen sea, fed by mountain ranges and huge rivers in order to produce icebergs of the size reported by Bouvet, Halley, and others.

States of the map

The privilege in the lower right corner is the same as on the first edition of this map. Buache modified the 1739 state with his hypothetical southern continent and presented it to the *Académie des Sciences* in 1754. This second state was supposedly published in 1754, which is the date printed on the map and the date most libraries and scholars attribute to the map. However, there is a track on all surviving examples of the Spanish ship "*le Lion en 1756*."

Both Georg Forster and Charles Burney include this voyage in their accounts of Pacific exploration. The *Leon* supposedly spotted land in 54°S in June 1756 on a return voyage from Callao, Peru around Cape Horn. This sighting was later confirmed by James Cook, who named the archipelago the South Sandwich Islands. Therefore, the likely date of this second state is at least 1756; perhaps initially meant for a 1754 publication, the state was delayed in reaching the press, allowing for additional changes. The map appeared in Dezauche's *Cartes et tables de la géographie physique ou naturelle* (1757), so the second state is more properly dated 1757.

The 1770 edition of this atlas included plate numbers. The present example carries a plate number of xiv



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in the top right corner and has a different address—*Rue des Noyers* as opposed to *Quay de l'Horloge*. The former address is the shop of Jean-Claude Dezauche. Thus, this state is dated to ca. 1770.

Watch Geography Geek's Video on Terra Australis:



Detailed Condition: