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Mappe-Monde Dresse sur les Observations de Mrs de l'Academie Royale des Sciences et quelques autres et sur les memoirs les plus recens Par M. De L'Isle . . .

Stock#: 73990
Map Maker: Mortier
Date: 1700 circa
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 25 x 20 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine Mortier World Map Published in Amsterdam—Interim State!

Fine double-hemisphere world map published by Mortier in Amsterdam. This state, which carries Delisle's name, is not included in Shirley's survey of world maps.

There are several intriguing points of geographic interest. Frislande haunts the North Atlantic, for example. The largest geographic mystery included, however, is certainly the hypothetical coasts of a southern continent, a persistent geographic chimera of this period. The coasts, although unjoined, circle the south pole and suggest a huge landmass.

Japan is suggestively attached with shaded coasts to *Terre d'Yeco* and then to Asia, making it a peninsula. Yeco was the name often given to Hokkaido, whose geography was unknown at this time and therefore open to creative interpretation.

Nearby, and stretching into the far west of the western hemisphere, as a series of shadow islands between Japan and North America. These are *Terre de la Compagnie* and Gama Land, chimeras of the seventeenth century which suggested to mapmakers that large islands were extant in the North Pacific.

The southern tip of South America retains its strange westward curve and point, a shape that would be altered on later states. Tierra del Fuego is also unfinished, suggesting a larger island.



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In the Pacific, the Solomon Islands are far too far to the east. This is the result of a misunderstanding of their longitude stemming from the first voyage of Alvaro de Mendaña in 1567-1569.

Speaking of Mendaña, he is not the only explorer referenced on the map. There are a series of ships' tracks that crisscross the world's oceans.

- Magellan's track sets out across the Pacific. Ferdinand Magellan led a squadron of ships on the world's first circumnavigation from 1519-1522. He died in the Philippines. Only one of the ships, the *Victoria*, returned with eighteen survivors led by Juan Sebastián Elcano.
- The route of "*Gaetan*" in 1542 refers to Juan Gaetano, pilot on the expedition led by Ruy López de Villalobos. In 1541, the Viceroy of New Spain ordered Villalobos to sail west. Departing Mexico in late 1542, he led six ships across the Pacific to the Philippines, which he named for Philip II.
- A short dotted-line runs from Tierra del Fuego to Juan Fernandez, off the coast of Chile. This is one of the voyages of Pedro Sarmiento de Gamboa. Later, after Drake menaced Spanish settlements during his 1577-80 circumnavigation, Gamboa would pitch a settlement in the Straits of Magellan. The proposed colony was attempted, but failed miserably.
- Another route repeats the name of Mendaña, but it also adds the name Quiros with a date of 1595. Quiros had sailed with Mendaña on his second Pacific voyage in 1595. The young navigator became obsessed with the idea of the southern continent and wrote a series of memorials to champion his cause. In 1605, the Spanish Crown granted him a voyage. He did find land, but it was Vanuatu, not a massive and unknown mainland. He supposedly founded a city and performed elaborate possession rituals, but his crew forced him to return to Spanish holdings. He vowed to return but died while preparing another expedition.
- Van Noort's route parallels that of the buccaneer Dampier across the Pacific. Oliver van Noort was the first Dutchman to circle the world, and the ninth overall to do so, in 1598-1601.
- Le Maire and Schouten led an attempt to undermine the Dutch East India Company monopoly on the entrance to the Pacific via the Straits of Magellan. They found an alternative route around Cape Horn via a strait now named for Le Maire. They then went on to complete a circumnavigation of the globe from 1615 to 1617.
- The journey of Pelsaert in the *Batavia* in 1629 is also marked near the west coast of Australia. *Batavia* departed Texel in the Netherlands in October 1628 and had a troubled journey round the Cape of Good Hope. A VOC official, Jeronimus Cornelisz, and the ship's skipper, Ariaen Jacobsz, hatched a mutiny against Pelsaert, the merchant in command of the ship. The mutiny failed, but the *Batavia* ran aground in Western Australia in June 1629. Pelsaert sailed for Batavia, on the island of Java, in the ship's boat to get help. Four months later Pelsaert returned to a grisly scene. Cornelisz had seized control and set up a tyrannical government. He and his supporters killed over



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100 people. Pelsaert tried the mutineers and executed some of them on Seal Island. He returned to Batavia, where he was blamed for a lack of authority and stripped of his assets.

- Tasman's route appears on the eastern and western hemispheres and refers to his first voyage of 1642-3. This expedition, funded by the Dutch East India Company, was the first to circumnavigate the whole of the Australasia region, thus proving it was a separate entity unconnected from a mythical, and massive, southern continent. Tasman surveyed the south coast of Tasmania, which he called Van Diemens Land after the VOC governor of Batavia, and the western coast of New Zealand, as well as the Tonga and Fiji Archipelagos.
- In the Indian Ocean is the route of the Chevalier de Chaumont. The Chevalier led the first French embassy to Siam, arriving in 1685. They returned the two Siamese diplomats who had visited the court of Louis XIV in 1684. Chaumont eventually gained fame as a travel writer, but as a diplomat he failed to convert the Siamese King to Catholicism or to secure lucrative trade deals.
- William Dampier, after writing a celebrated voyage account of his years as a buccaneer, was given command of HMS *Roebuck*. From 1699 to 1701 he led an ill-fated expedition that sunk the *Roebuck* yet also led him to land on eastern Australia.

The ornate double hemisphere map includes four polar hemispheric projections in the corners, allowing one to view the earth from varying angles. In the upper left corner is the southern hemisphere, while the northern hemisphere is to the upper right. The lower corners repeat this symmetry, but the projections there are oblique in perspective. They center on Paris and its antipodes. In all four cases, the relatively unknown Polar Regions are highlighted.

Although there is little decoration within the graticule of the hemispheres, the map is quite ornate. The title is enclosed in a cartouche. Arrayed around the sides of the cartouche's frame are four women representing the continents: Europe, America, Africa, and Asia. A ribbon unfurls across the top declaring the dedication: *Nova Orbis Tabula ad Usus Serenissimi Burgundiae Ducis*, a new world map for the use of the Duke of Burgundy.

Along the bottom edge of the map are the publishers' details. Mortier's privilege is proclaimed from inside an aquatic-themed cartouche. A sea monster's mouth makes up the top of the frame, surrounded by marine vegetation. Two mermaids, a female and a male, are at either side. The man, to the left, blows a conch, while the women, to the right, strokes a large fish. The sea stretches in the background, peppered with sailing vessels of all sizes.

States of this map

The map is a mixture of influences and information. The [first state of this world map](#) released by Mortier



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references Sanson in the title cartouche, not Delisle, but is also based on the work of Hubert Jaillot. Shirley dates this first state to 1696, but it includes the route of Dampier, whose first book was not published until 1697, thus a date of ca. 1697 is more likely.

In the present state, Delisle's name has replaced Sanson's, which is most likely a reference to the latter's rising profile. Deslisle published a world map in 1700, his first. It bears a similar title to this work and was likely added here in anticipation of further changes to the plate.

However, this map retains the geographic information of the previous state, including the coasts of a southern continent evident on the 1696 state. [Later states would omit this hypothetical feature](#), as well as add more explorer's tracks and revise South America as Delisle himself did on later states of his 1700 world map. [Revisions continued into at least the 1740s](#).

Detailed Condition: