



## Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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### **Carte Nouvelle de la Mer du Sud, dressee par Ordre des principaux Directeurs des Memoires les plus recents et des Relations des Navigateurs les plus Modernes . . .**

**Stock#:** 81747  
**Map Maker:** De Leth  
**Date:** 1730 circa  
**Place:** Amsterdam  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 37 x 23.5 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



#### **Description:**

***Beautiful, detailed map of the Pacific and the Americas showing colonial activity in the eighteenth century***

Fine example of the De Leth's monumental map focused on the trade routes to and across the Pacific Ocean.

De Leth's map is based largely upon Nicholas De Fer's wall map of 1713. De Leth follows French models and the English American colonies are confined to the Atlantic coast of North America. The Mississippi flows into the Gulf on Mexico on the Texas coast. The Great Lakes are well formed and California is shown as an island. In the Pacific the mythical "Terre de Quir" appears joined to the Australian coastline.

The treatment of Australia, New Zealand and Southeast Asia are also noteworthy. The map shows a continuous southern coastline of Australia running from Terre d'Edels and Terre de Leuwin, regions discover by the Dutch in early 17th Century, to the west coast of New Zealand, suggesting one continuous land mass extending nearly 11 degrees, with "Terre d'Antoine Diemens" sandwiched between cherubs holding aloft a banner describing "Nova Maris Pacifica Tabula . . . " The nearly parallel northern coastline of Australia also extends nearly 11 degrees, trailing off into a fantasy east coast north of the New Zealand Coastline.

The map is centered on America and shows the tracks of famous navigators like Magellan and Schouten, who both discovered a western entrance into the Pacific Ocean. The map also shows the trade route from Europe to Southeast Asia, via Mexico and the west coast of North America. These additions serve to incorporate the Pacific into the global trade networks of Spain, the Netherlands, and, judging by the use of



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French and Dutch on the map, France.

The effect is heightened by detailed insets which highlight ports and cities central to trade. The beautifully engraved vignettes include a spectacular view of a Dutch trading port at the Cape of Good Hope, set within an elaborate border decorated with monkeys and wild cats and crowned with a plan of the fort. A plan of Mexico City is surrounded by scenes of native life and the Spanish Conquest of the Aztecs, as well as images of the Temple of the Sun and an underground mining operation. A third vignette features images of sugar production as practiced on slave plantations in French colonies, an addition not found in De Fer or Chatelain. Other insets includes plans of Havana, the Bay of Rio de Janeiro, Vera Cruz, Porto Bello, and the Isthmus of Panama.

Although it is a map of the *Mer du Sud*, the South Sea, the world's largest body of water is crowded with non-geographic features. This was a way for the De Leths to conveniently skirt certain controversial choices, like how to portray the land between Japan and North America (although the mythical island of Jesso is included), or whether and how to show a southern continent. They do choose to show the Strait of Anian, a nod to the Northwest Passage, but do not include a phantom coastline of *Terre d'Anian* or *Terre de la Compagnie* as Chatelain and De Fer did.

The map survives in several states, including:

- A proof state, pre-dating the inclusion of the text box below the Mexico City vignettes and with insets shows (added in the second state) and without the inset city plans of Rio De Janeiro, Havana and Vera Cruz (which replaced a vignette of a waterfall on the Mississippi River) and the publisher's imprint in the second line of the title. Also, one of the inset maps includes the Straits of Magellan.
- The second state adds the text box beginning with *Messieurs. . .* and adds plans of Vera-Cruz, the Rio Janeiro Harbor and Havana, to the west of California. Second state also adds an inset at the top right (showing the Straits of Gibraltar) and the daily tracks of the route along the west coast of Africa.
- In the third state the insets at the bottom are replaced and now show Porto Bello and the Isthmus of Panama.

The present example is state 3, with fine wide margins and a nice dark impression.

#### **Detailed Condition:**