



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

(Southwestern Pacific) To the Honorable Court of Directors of the United East India Company This Chart of the Western Part of the Pacific Ocean Comprised between the Latitudes of 48° South and 17° North. from 146° to 176° of East Longitude. and exhibiting the Track of the Walpole, from the S.W. Cape of New Holland, to the Isle of Tinian, Is respectfully Dedicated by their most obedient Humble Servt. Thos. Butler, Commander of the Walpole.

Stock#: 94823
Map Maker: Laurie & Whittle
Date: 1800
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 29 x 68.5 inches
Price: \$ 19,500.00



Description:



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This 1800 chart of the western Pacific Ocean serves as a testament to the vigorous exploratory efforts characterizing the maritime expeditions of the British Empire at the turn of the 19th century. Created under the guidance of Captain Butler of the *Walpole*, the chart meticulously records the routes and findings of various British vessels across the southwestern Pacific, from New Zealand to the eastern coast of Australia and northward.

The era this chart represents was marked by a rapid escalation in global exploration and cartographic documentation. The British Empire, in its quest to claim and understand the farthest reaches of the globe, and in particular Australia in this instance, dispatched numerous maritime expeditions. These voyages are traced in the lines and notations across the chart, revealing Britain's ambitious initiative to uncover the mysteries of the southwestern Pacific.

The geographical scope of the chart is expansive, featuring several key regions. It covers most of New Zealand, the eastern coast of Australia as known during the early 19th century, New Caledonia, the New Hebrides, the Solomon Islands, and an exploratory interpretation of the eastern half of New Guinea. In addition, the Ladrone and New Caroline Islands are depicted.

Each of these regions is depicted with careful detail, indicating a strong commitment to navigational accuracy and a clear recording of the explorers' observations. Inset charts and annotations are incorporated to supplement the main geographical depiction, providing additional insight into the voyages and findings.

The chart's visual features also include engraved coastal profiles, aiding in the understanding of the terrain. The data collected through lunar observations and the chronometer corrections reveal the methodologies used in that era for maintaining the accuracy of the charted routes.

Beyond the geographical and navigational details, the chart also includes an array of text references. These provide a unique glimpse into the actual voyage of the *Walpole* and other vessels, giving it a degree of authenticity and historical significance beyond just being a cartographic record.

Rarity



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Very rare. OCLC locates only examples in the National Library of Australia. It is difficult to decipher how many examples are held there, but it appears not more than three.

There was an edition published in 1799 (not in Tooley), 1800 (Tooley 275), and in 1822 (by Richard Holmes Laurie, Tooley 276).

Detailed Condition:

Three large engraved sheets joined as one very tall chart. Some expert restoration mending some small tears edge. Presents as VG+