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The Scots Settlement in America called New Caledonia A.D. 1699 . . .

Stock#: 94883
Map Maker: Moll
Date: 1729
Place: London
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG
Size: 8 x 10 inches
Price: \$ 450.00



Description:

The Scots Settlement in America called New Caledonia, a map of the ill-fated Scottish colony of New Edinburgh, published in London in 1729, stands as a tangible testament to the trials of early colonial endeavors. Based on an original draft by Herman Moll, a prominent geographer of the time, this document provides a captivating glimpse into the transient existence of the Scottish foothold in modern-day Panama.

The map's origin lies in the ambitious plans of William Paterson, the founder of the Bank of England and then Scottish Governor. In 1698, he envisioned the establishment of a colony in Panama as an economic boon for Scotland, leading to the formation of the Company of Scotland. With substantial funds raised, an expedition carrying 1,200 colonists arrived at Darien in November 1698, and the construction of the colony commenced. The region, renamed New Caledonia, was captured in several promotional manuscript maps by English chartmaker William Hacke, from which Moll's printed map derives.

Despite the optimistic beginnings, New Caledonia succumbed to the harsh realities of disease and attacks from Spanish galleons. Within nine months, the remaining colonists had retreated, marking the premature



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end of the colony. This catastrophic venture pushed Scotland towards economic collapse, culminating in the signing of the Act of Union in 1707, which led to the formation of the United Kingdom.

As an artifact of this historical period, the map also includes an intriguing note, etched in its upper-right corner, that details the geographical characteristics of the Bay of Caledonia, including its rocky ground, the presence of gold, and the rapid regrowth of vegetation in cleared areas. The *Scots Settlement in America called New Caledonia* thus offers a poignant cartographic memory of a fleeting chapter in colonial history, encapsulating both the high hopes and the grim realities of early colonization attempts.

Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color in outline. Some toning.