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[Japan and East Coast of Korea] Charte Der Japanischen Inseln . . . 1811

Stock#: 97099
Map Maker: Krusenstern

Date: 1811
Place: St. Petersburg
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 17 x 17.5 inches

Price: \$ 3,400.00



Description:

Krusenstern Maps Japan and the East Coast of Korea -- First Mapping of the Osumi Strait

A fine depiction of Japan and the east coast of Korea, drawn from the German edition of Atlas to accompany the account of Krusenstern's Voyage Round the World in the Years 1803, 1804, 1805 & 1806.

Among other milestones on the expedition, Krusenstern became the first European mapmaker to map Japan's Osumi Strait (here called Straase van Diemen).

The map was part of the cartographic documentation of Krusenstern's circumnavigation, the first Russian expedition of its kind. The map of Japan is impressive, but still quite tentative, reflecting Krusenstern's observations that all western maps of the region were quite poor, even those of Aaron Arrowsmith.

Krusenstern set off from Kronstadt on August 7, 1803 with two ships, stopping at Copenhagen, Falmouth, Tenerife, Brazil, Nuku Hiva, and Hawaii. When the expedition reached the Hawaiian Islands in June 1804 the vessels parted ways - the *Nadezhda* went to Kamchatka and Japan, while the *Neva* headed to Kodiak Island, Alaska, where it spent 14 months and participated in the Russian-Tlingit war. The ships were



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reunited in Guangzhou in December 1805, and after leaving China, they sailed together for a short time, before returning independently to Kronstadt in August 1806.

During the portion of the trip to Japan, the crew encountered significant meteorological challenges, which directly impacted their mapping efforts. Initially, the journey from Kamchatka to Japan was hampered by persistent light rain and fog. On September 11, these conditions escalated into a severe storm, leading to increased difficulties aboard, including a more pronounced leak and issues with livestock on board.

The first clear day, not until September 24, allowed for better navigation and mapping. On September 28, Japan became visible, but another major storm prevented the crew from approaching closer. This period highlighted a crucial finding: the inadequacy of existing maps for navigation in these waters. Krusenstern and his navigator, Horner, discovered that even the maps by Aaron Arrowsmith, a renowned cartographer of the time, were insufficient for reliable navigation in the area.

The expedition reached the shore of the Satsuma Domain on October 3. This part of the voyage was notable for their contribution to cartography, as the expedition was the first to describe the Osumi Strait. This was a significant contribution since all existing European maps of the region were based on Japanese sources, which the Krusenstern expedition could now supplement with their first-hand observations.

By the evening of October 8, the *Nadezhda* reached the Nagasaki Strait, further enhancing their mapping of the region. The expedition's mission, under the auspices of Nikolay Rezanov, was supported by documents from the Batavian Republic and a directive from Hendrick Doof, head of the Dutch East India Company, which underscored the importance of their diplomatic and mapping endeavors in Japan.

In summary, despite challenging weather conditions, Krusenstern's expedition made significant contributions to the mapping of the Japanese coast, particularly in areas where European knowledge was previously limited or reliant on secondary sources. Their observations provided valuable updates to existing maps and enhanced the understanding of maritime navigation in the region.

The Krusenstern expedition arrived in Nagasaki in October of 1804. It was their intention to establish an embassy to Japan, and they brought along numerous gifts, as well as Japanese victims of the 1794 Andreanof Island shipwreck, with the hope of opening Japan. The Japanese were not impressed by most of the gifts, with the exception of an English automaton clock in the shape of an Elephant and a Russian kaleidoscope. The gift of fox furs, highly prized in Russia, were apparently particularly poorly received, as the Japanese viewed them as undesirable. The conduct of the Russian ambassador Rezanov was also detrimental to negotiations and they eventually failed to produce the desired results.

The map also depicts the routes of a number of other European explorers in the region, including:



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- Gore & King 1779
- La Perouse 1786
- Colnett - 1789 .
- Broughton - 1797
- Krusenstern - 1804-05

Rarity

The Krusenstern Atlas is extremely rare. Separate maps from the atlas are very rare on the market.

Detailed Condition:

Minor soiling.