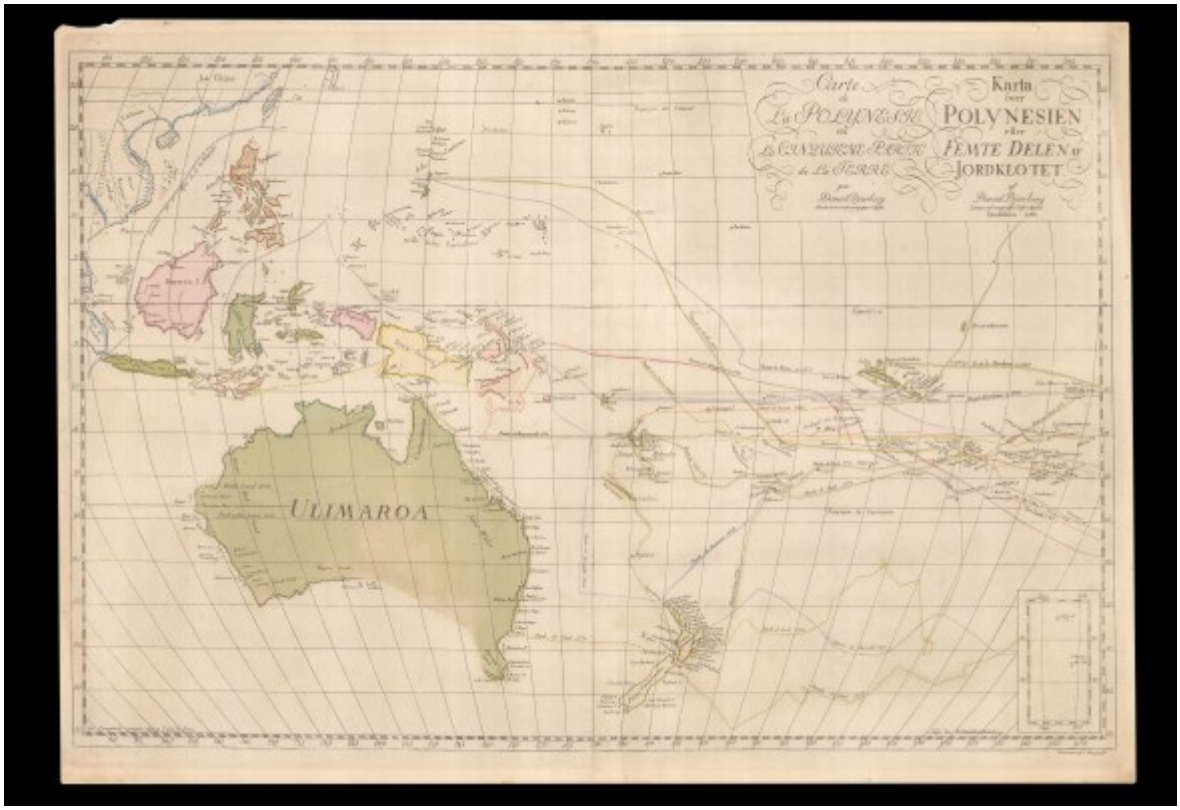


First state, title in French and Swedish. Double-page engraved charte, with contemporary hand-colour in outline.

“ULIMAROA” – BIG RED LAND

Karta over Polynesien eller femte delen af jordklotet = Carte de la Polynesie ou la cinquieme partie de la terre af Daniel Djurberg, rector, Ledamot af Cosmografiska Sallsk. i Upsala.

Author
DJURBERG, Daniel

Publication date
1780.

Publisher
Saljes hos Bokhandlar en Holmberg,

Publication place
Stockholm,

Physical description
First state, title in French and Swedish. Double-page engraved charte, with contemporary hand-colour in outline.

Dimensions
473 by 712mm (18.5 by 28 inches).

Notes
The first Swedish map of Australia, showing it as “Ulimaroa”, the Swedish word for Australia, first

invented by Daniel Djurberg.

In 1776 Djurberg wrote: “the world is divided into 5 main parts: 1. Europe, 2. Asia, 3. Africa, which makes up one large island, 4. America, which makes up the other island, 5. Polynesia, which includes all the large and small islands which cannot be joined to any of the previous four continents and includes, among others, the large island Ulimaroa, which in old geographies is known as New Holland”.

Djurberg believed “Ulimaroa to be the New Zealand Māori name for Australia, meaning “big red land”, a belief that he justified in 1801: “You find in the account of the famous English sailor Cook’s journeys that when he was on the northern coast of New Zealand, he asked the inhabitants there if they knew any other country, to which they replied that to the north-west of their home, a quite large land was located, which they named Ulimaroa”. More recent scholarship on this origin story suggests that not only was Djurberg wrong in believing the Māori were referring to Australia here, but the name Ulimaroa is also somewhat of a misnomer, and almost certainly did not translate to “big red land”. It is more likely that the island to which the Māori people were referring was New Caledonia or an island in Fiji, and a name more accurately transcribed as Rimaora, not Ulimaroa” (Stone).

The mapmaker
Daniel Djurberg (1744-1834) “was a Swedish geographer and a member of the Cosmographical Society of Uppsala. He was one of the first to publish Capt. Cook’s discoveries in Sweden and the first to adopt the native name “Ulimaroa” for the Australian Continent” (Tooley).

Bibliography
Literature: Clancy, ‘The Mapping of Terra Australis’, 6.38; Stone, ‘Ulimaroa: a name of curious origin on early maps of Australia’, University of Melbourne online; Tent and Geraghty, ‘Where in the World Is Ulimaroa? Or, How a Pacific Island Became the Australian Continent’, in ‘The Journal of Pacific History’, vol. 47, no. 1, pages 1–20 (page 4); Tooley, ‘The Mapping of Australia’, 446.

Provenance

Price: £5000

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