



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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Mapa y Tabla Geografica de Leguas comunes, que ai de unos à otros Lugares, y Ciudades principales de la America septentrional . . .

Stock#: 32462
Map Maker: Nava
Date: 1755
Place: Pueblo de Los Angeles
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 12 x 7.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare map of Spanish North America, printed in Mexico for presentation to the newly appointed Viceroy of New Spain, Agustin de Ahumada y Villalón, Marqués de las Amarillas.

Agustin de Ahumada y Villalón arrived in Mexico City on November 10th, 1755, where he remained until his death on February 5th, 1760. This remarkable map was intended to provide the newly appointed Viceroy with an overview of New Spain, including a table of distances between major places, including "Californias". The Viceroy had been charged with repairing and maintaining safety on the roads of New Spain, in addition to creating necessary public works in cities and major towns in his district (*Instrucciones y Memorias de los Virreyes Novohispanos. Estudio preliminar, coordinación, bibliografía y notas de Ernesto de la Torre Villar*, n.º 37, p. 886). As noted in the John Carter Brown description of the map:

The main purpose of this piece was to acquaint the new Viceroy with the extent of his empire and its relationship with the rest of North America.

The map shows the iconic Mexican symbols of an eagle and a serpent on a cactus with the royal coat of arms, a somehow idealized view between Mexico City, Heroica Puebla de Zaragoza and Veracruz. Furthermore at left the dedication signed by "P.J.E." (?) and illustrated with a native American, and below tables with distances, latitude and longitude, and also the zodiac signs of the principal cities.

Maps printed in Mexico in the 18th Century are extremely rare. The present map's survival is even more exceptional in that it was made specifically for presentation to the Viceroy and was therefore almost



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certainly not available for sale or disseminated to the general public.

The map is an exceptional rarity, with no examples offered in dealer catalogs over the past 30 years and no auction records located in the past 100 years. We locate copies at John Carter Brown (loose copy) and apparently an example bound into a composite atlas *Mapas de America, pertencientes a la Real Academia de la Historia*, Madrid, 1791, No. 5, as illustrated and described in Map #162 in *Cartografía Del Siglo XVIII: Tomas Lopez en la Real Academia de la Historia* (Gomez & Porto, Madrid, 2006). There is also a contemporary manuscript variant example of the map in the Library of Congress. We located no examples in Mexico and only the 1 example in the US.

Detailed Condition:

Mounted on larger sheet of paper. Very minor foxing. A bit wrinkled, with minor evidence of old folds. Hinged to the larger sheet, with wide original margins.