



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

A General Map of North America

Stock#: 23868
Map Maker: Collot
Date: 1804
Place: Paris
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 34 x 23.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare large format map of North America, by George Collot.

Collot's map provides a fascinating snapshot of the Transmississippi West on the eve of the explorations of MacKenzie, Lewis & Clark, Pike, Humboldt and others. The map provides a very stark and remarkably accurate of the region west of the Mississippi River, with a detailed treatment of the West Coast and a marvelously restrained look at what was then known about the Upper Missouri, Rocky Mountains and the region between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Coast. This may reasonably be described as the map template upon which the west was drawn over the next 20 years.

In 1796 General George Henri Victor Collot undertook a reconnaissance of what was then the United States' frontier from France. His mission was to assess whether the region could be retaken by France. He traveled from Pittsburgh down the Ohio to the Mississippi, up the Mississippi to the Missouri and Illinois Rivers, and then back down the Mississippi to New Orleans. During his journey, he constructed a large number of exceptionally fine manuscript maps and views of the region that he traversed. Many of these were groundbreaking, containing never before recorded information on a wilderness that was just beginning to undergo settlement. Collot's maps were engraved in Paris in 1804, but publication was suppressed due to Napoleon's sale of Louisiana to the United States in 1803. The sale ended any possibility that these regions could be acquired by France. As a result the plates were not printed until 1826, when they were issued in a limited number as *Voyage dans l'Amerique Septentrionale*. Copies were published with both French and English text.

"A nineteenth-century bookseller called this work 'one of the most famous, most important, and rarest of all books of Mid-Western Explorations.' Its rarity is due to the deliberate destruction of all but three



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hundred French and one hundred English copies by the publisher, who had purchased the edition from Collot's estate, hoping to increase its value" (Cohen.) This wonderful map is lovely example of Collot's important charts of the Ohio River. The second in a set of four maps of the River, this elegant chart depicts the path of the river from Limestone to Three Brother Islands. It includes all the ports and cities along the river as well as the large towns of Belleville and Marietta. Collet has carefully charted the location and names of the smaller tributaries and has paid great attention to the names of the smaller settlements along the river.

Detailed Condition:

Fold splits reinforced on verso.