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A Map of Louisiana and Mexico. Carte de la Louisiane et Mexique . . . 1820

Stock#: 39803dd
Map Maker: Tardieu
Date: 1820
Place: Paris
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG+
Size: 44 x 31 inches (if joined)
Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare separately issued map of Western United States, Texas, Louisiana, Mexico and parts adjacent, published in Paris by Tardieu.

As noted on the map

This Map is executed according to the astronomical observations of Baron de Humboldt, and Don Joaquin de Ferrer. For Upper Louisiana, we have profited of the maps and travels of Pike, and those of Lewis and Clark; for Lower Louisiana, of the map and description of this State by M. Darby; for the Territory of Arkansas and the Province of Texas, of the map of the United States by M. Melish and for Mexico of the map of New Spain by Baron de Humboldt, and that of this country by M> Arrowsmith. . .



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The map incorporates the work of the most important American sources, including Melish's fine large format map of the US published in 1816, Alexander von Humboldt's map of "new Spain," Darby's remarkable large format map of Louisiana, first published in 1816 and the maps included in Zebulon Pike's Report.

Interestingly, the note does not mention Aaron Arrowsmith's maps of Mexico or North America. Indeed, a second edition of this map, also dated 1820, includes an additional note referencing Arrowsmith's map of Mexico.

The final mapmaker mentioned is Joaquin de Ferrer, whose contribution (and possible contact with Tardieu), is perhaps the most fascinating. José Joaquín Ferrer y Cafranga (1763-1818), was a Spanish Basque cartographer and astronomer, and was one of the last great figures of the Ilustración Borbonica, or the Spanish Enlightenment. Ferrer spent most of the 1790s in Cadiz, assisting the Armada Real in the production of the *Portulano de la America Setentrional*. However, Ferrer, who held distinctly liberal beliefs, became disaffected with the political situation in Spain, and set sail for America in 1799.

For the next 14 years, Ferrer was based in New York, and while earning a lucrative living as a merchant, found ample time to pursue his passions in astronomy and geography, traveling widely through America and the Caribbean. In 1809, several of his papers were published within the prestigious *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society*. In 1813, Ferrer travelled to London to study at the Greenwich Observatory, where he became acquainted with some of the Britain's leading intellectuals. The following year he studied at the Institute de France in Paris. Shortly thereafter, Ferrer returned to Spain, where he commenced work on the *Portulano de los Estados Unidos*.

While the *Portulano* was in production in Madrid, Ferrer dedicated himself full-time to the pursuit of academic projects. He became a fellow of the Real Academia de la Historia and the Real Sociedad Vascongada (Royal Basque Society). Ferrer retired to Bilbao in 1817, and died on May 18, 1818. Unfortunately, it is likely that he never saw a completed example of the *Portulano de los Estados Unidos*.

Detailed Condition:

Two sheets, unjoined