



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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Observations sur la Virginie.

Stock#: 47744
Map Maker: Jefferson
Date: 1786 [1787]
Place: Paris
Color:
Condition: VG+
Size: 7.5 x 4 inches ,75
Price: SOLD



Description:

Engraved folding map, folding table. [4], viii, 190, [6], 197-387, 288-290, [5, errata] pages of French text (i.e., complete).

8vo, 7.5 x 4.75 inches, expertly bound to style in full mottled calf, covers bordered in gilt, spine with raised bands in six compartments, with gilt red morocco lettering piece in second, the others with repeat overall decoration in gilt, tastefully renewed endpapers. Housed in modern quarter black morocco clamshell box.

First Published Edition of Jefferson's Notes on Virginia, with the Only Map Attributed to Thomas Jefferson.

Thomas Jefferson's iconic book had its roots in a questionnaire that was circulated by Francois Barbé-Marbois, a French diplomat stationed in Philadelphia. After serving as Governor of Virginia from 1779 to June 1781, Jefferson began writing his response to Barbé-Marbois. While serving as United States Ambassador to France, in Paris, Jefferson had his response privately printed for a close circle of friends. That private printing proved extremely popular, and Jefferson gave his blessing to this regularly published edition in 1786.

This, the first French edition, was translated by André Morellet with corrections by Thomas Jefferson. Unlike the privately-printed Notes, this edition is the first to include Jefferson's famous map:

A MAP of the country between ALBEMARLE SOUND, and LAKE ERIE, comprehending the whole of VIRGINIA, MARYLAND, DELAWARE, and PENSYLVANIA, with parts of several other of the United States



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of America. ____ Engraved for the Notes on Virginia.

Unusually, the map is subtitled with a description of its sources:

The country on the eastern side of the Allegany Mountains, is taken from Fry and Jefferson's Map of Virginia, and Scull's Map of Penssylvania, which were contructed chiefly on actual survey; that on the western side of the Allegany, is taken from Hutchins, who went over the principal water courses, with a compass and log-line, correcting work by observations of latitude: additions have been made, where they could be made on sure ground.

The additions referred to in the last line of the caption seem to have been made by Jefferson himself, leading to the map being the only map attributed to Jefferson.

The key in the lower right differentiates towns, forts, courthouses, churches, private dwellings, county lines, and lines dividings states.

It is likely that this map is the source of all other references to Frankland and Franklinia to appear on maps, as there are no other maps published in America which include this ephemeral name for this region. Jefferson apparently intended to add county names, but was unable to procure a copy of John Henry's scarce map of Virginia. Jefferson arranged with Samuel J. Neele in September 1786 to have the map engraved, but the final version of the map does not include Neele's name.

Detailed Condition:

Half title slightly soiled. Minor dampstaining to a later section of text. Overall a very attractive presentation.