



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## Carte De La Louisiane Et Du Cours Du Mississipi . . .

**Stock#:** 48723  
**Map Maker:** Bernard  
**Date:** 1720  
**Place:** Amsterdam  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 16 x 14 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

Nice example of Jean Frederic Bernard's rare variant edition of Guillaume De L'Isle's seminal map, one of the most important and influential maps of the 18th Century, which has been referred to as the mother and main source of all the later maps of the Mississippi and the whole West of the United States.

De L'Isle's map is one of the most widely copied and influential maps ever produced. The map contains the first indications of the explorations of De Soto, Cavelier, Tonty, Moscoso and Denis. It included the best depiction of the Mississippi River to date, for the first time presenting a roughly accurate delineation of its entire length, as well as a semblance of accuracy about many of its tributaries. It was also the first map to include the name Texas with the legend "Mission de los Teijas," indicating a Mission established in 1716.

De L'Isle's maps had an immense impact on the history of cartography, and none more so than this map. It was based on years of research, using all the latest reports of travels, explorations and surveys in the region. Delisle was particularly well placed with respect to gathering information on North America, using De L'Isle's connections in the French Court to access the best available published and unpublished accounts and maps of the New World.

De L'Isle's map was the first accurate delineation of the Mississippi Valley system and "the first printed map to show Texas." As noted in Cohen,

*A significant map in Western American history and a work by one of the greatest mapmakers*



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*of all time. The map revealed for the first time the importance of the Missouri River and gave the most accurate delineation of the Mississippi Valley up to that time... [Delisle's] passion for pure scientific accuracy is reflected on his maps. If geographic information had not been directly observed by a reliable source, he refused to acknowledge it. Many longstanding myths and errors that had been passed from mapmaker to mapmaker for generations were suddenly absent on Delisle's maps.*

This example of the map appeared in Bernard's *Relations de la Louisiane, et du fleuve Mississippi*, first issued in 1720 in Amsterdam. This work forms volume V of Bernard's *Recueil de voyages au nord* and is a collection of four reports describing Louisiana, Mississippi and Virginia, seemingly to promote John Law's Mississippi Company, which was then at the apex of its successful exploitation of Law's investment scheme which would later nearly bankrupt the French Government.

**Detailed Condition:**

Minor toning. Hole in lower left margin, backed on verso. Not impacting map.