



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

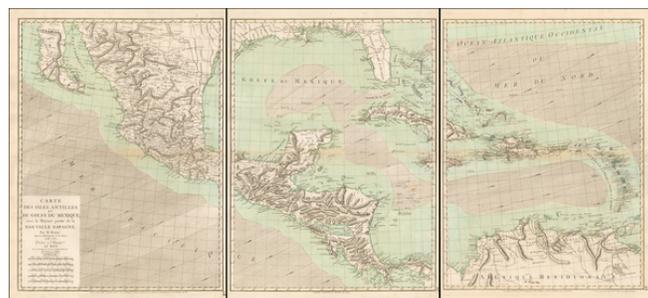
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Carte Des Isles Antilles Et Du Golfe du Mexique; avec la majeure partie de la Nouvelle Espagne . . . 1780

Stock#: 48757
Map Maker: Bonne
Date: 1782
Place: Paris
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 40 x 26 inches (if joined)
Price: \$2,400.00



Description:

One of Best Maps of the Gulf of Mexico, Florida, the Caribbean at the time of the American Revolution

Flawless example of Rigobert Bonne's scarce large format chart of Florida, the Gulf Coast, Texas, Mexico, Baja California and Central America, which is dated 1780 and reviewed and corrected to 1782. The present example is the unrecorded second state. While the chart occasionally appears on the market as a two sheet map, it is quite rare on the market with the third sheet, covering the eastern Caribbean.

The chart shows provinces, numerous harbors and bays, towns, forts, channels, and a few routes of navigation. It also shows the direction of the trade winds with hachures and arrows. A highlight of the chart is the excellent detail along the coast of Florida, one of the best contemporary mappings of its coastline. There is excellent detail in the Gulf Coast, including Texas, with a fair amount of detail in the interior.

Overall, this chart communicates the importance of the Caribbean and Gulf regions to the French, Spanish and British Empires and, by extension, how vital it was to be able to harness the prevailing winds to commercial advantage. The dangers of those winds were a prescient topic in 1782, when the chart was updated, as it followed in the aftermath of the deadly hurricane season of 1780. Three massive storms ripped through the Caribbean, including the deadliest Atlantic hurricane on record, Hurricane San Calixto.

Hurricane San Calixto slammed the Lower Antilles in mid-October 1780, then moved north up the Atlantic coast of North America. The French and British fleets engaged on opposite sides of the American Revolution were decimated; more than 4,000 French soldiers drowned off Martinique and British Admiral Rodney's fleet was wrecked. More than 25,000 people were killed across the Caribbean.



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**Carte Des Isles Antilles Et Du Golfe du Mexique; avec la majeure partie de la Nouvelle
Espagne . . . 1780**

The chart is the work of Rigobert Bonne, who succeeded Jacques Nicholas Bellin as head of the *Dépôt des cartes et plans de la Marine* in 1773 . Born in 1727, Bonne was active from ca. 1760-88 and died in 1795. His plain style favored clarity over embellishment and was central to the transition from artistic to minimalistic cartography. His special focus was coastal regions, as exemplified in this chart. His best known works include his contributions to Raynal's *Atlas de Toutes Les Parties Connues du Globe Terrestre* (1780) and the *Atlas Encyclop édique* (1788).

A fine example of this important chart.

Detailed Condition:

3 sheets, unjoined.