



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Carte Reduite Du Golphe Du Mexique Et Des Isles De L'Amerique Pour servir au Vaisseaux du Roy . . . Seconde Edition Annee 1774

Stock#: 48918
Map Maker: Depot de la Marine
Date: 1774
Place: Paris
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 30 x 20.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare separately issued Revolutionary War era edition of Bellin's important sea chart of the Gulf Coast, Florida and the Caribbean.

As noted in the title, this is the second edition of the chart, which has been significantly revised and updated from the prior edition, as can be seen from a comparison to the earlier chart.

The changes throughout the map are significant, from the changes in the interior of Texas, to the better understanding of the course of the rivers and contours of the coastline throughout the Gulf Coast. The additions and updating are evident throughout Central America and the Caribbean.

Perhaps most significant change (and the one which would continue to change over the next several decades) is the vastly different treatment of southern Florida. In this edition, Bellin has broken up the Peninsula into a vast archipelago of massive islands, beginning in the Central part of Florida's east coast. In the south, there is a massive channel shown between the area between Miami (which would not appear on a map for another 70 years) and the islands west of the region. The entire Gulf Coast has been re-worked and a number of new Bays and other coastal features are represented for the first time on this second edition of the map.

The revisions to the map tell a marvelous story of the evolution of the map from its first appearance in 1749. A link to the 1749 edition can be found here: [{{ inventory_detail_link\('24516'\) }}](#)

There also exists a significantly revised (and perhaps entirely different) later state of this chart, which is



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titled "Seconde Editione, Annee 17." Some observers have noted that "Annee 17" means the 17th year of the French Republic, commenced in 1791, making the chart circa 1808. However, it would seem that the chart is probably not a post-French Revolution map, as the words "Vaisseau du Roy" still appear in the title and Bellin is referenced as "Conseur Royale" as well, two facts that strongly suggest that the French Revolution had not yet commenced.

In comparing the two "Seconde Editiones," we note that the directions of the wind arrows have been revised and that the lettering in the "Annee 17" example is significantly different and also bears "no 67" in the top right corner, as well as an extra "explication" box below the title. We believe that the two charts were printed from entirely different copper plates and this may be part of the same series of charts which bears the engraver name "Brunn", which has been attributed to an Italian engraver.

A link to the Annee 17 edition can be found here: [{{ inventory_detail_link\('17600'\) }}](#)

This edition of the chart is apparently quite rare on the market.

Detailed Condition: