



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Partie Meridionale Du Royaume De Portugal . . . 1751

Stock#: 58145
Map Maker: de Vaugondy
Date: 1757
Place: Paris
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG+
Size: 21 x 19 inches
Price: Not Available



Description:

Southern Portugal At The Beginning of the Reign of King Jose I

Nice example of the first edition of De Vaugondy's map of the southern part of Portugal.

Lisbon and the Barra da Lisboa are prominently featured. Several hundred towns are shown.

During the middle of the 18th century, Portugal was in a period of significant change and development, particularly during the reign of King Joseph I from 1750 to 1777. This era, often known as the "Age of Enlightenment" in Portugal, was characterized by far-reaching reforms and the strengthening of royal power.

King Joseph I's rule is often synonymous with the de facto rule of Sebastião José de Carvalho e Melo, better known as the Marquis of Pombal, who served as his prime minister. Pombal is a controversial figure in Portuguese history. While some see him as a despot who ruled with an iron fist, others view him as a progressive reformer who modernized Portugal's economy and education system.

Pombal implemented a number of reforms aimed at strengthening the power of the monarchy and reducing the influence of the nobility and the church. He expelled the Jesuits from Portugal and its colonies, confiscated their property, and placed education under the control of the state. These measures were in line with the Enlightenment ideals of rationality and secularism, and they made Pombal a lot of



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enemies, especially among the traditional elites.

In economic terms, Pombal pursued policies aimed at making Portugal less dependent on colonial wealth and promoting domestic industries. He implemented measures to reorganize the wine industry, which led to the creation of the famous Port wine, and to regulate trade between the metropolis and the colonies.

The map was issued in the same decade as the Great Lisbon Earthquake of 1755, which nearly destroyed the capital. Pombal took charge of the reconstruction, rebuilding the city center in the Pombaline style, characterized by a grid street plan and earthquake-resistant construction methods.

However, Pombal's authoritarian rule also led to political repression and the Távora affair, a politically motivated trial and execution of several members of the nobility, which tarnished his legacy.

Detailed Condition: