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A New & Correct Map of the Trading Part of the West Indies, including the Seat of War between Gr. Britain and Spain; Likewise the British Empire in America . . . 1745

Stock#: 60315ops
Map Maker: Overton
Date: 1745
Place: London
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG
Size: 39.5 x 22 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

An English Rarity

First state of Overton's rare and decorative map of North America is one of the most fascinating large format English maps of America published in the 18th Century.

The present example of the map was printed with four copper plates, two for the map and two outer panels, each made up of five views. The views on the left are Havana; Panama; Porto Rico (San Juan); Cartagena; and Porto Bello (which had been seized by Admiral Vernon, to whom the first and second editions of the map are dedicated). The views on the right are Boston; New York; Mexico (City); Vera Cruz; and Chagre (also taken by Admiral Vernon).

There are two recorded states of this map (and an unrecorded 1759 edition of the map, which we sold in January 2007). The first edition of the map was issued in 1741. The map was likely made by Overton to celebrate the early victories of Vice-Admiral Edward Vernon over Spain in War of Jenkins' Ear. This war lasted between 1739-1743 and started off well for British, bringing acclaim to Vernon. The lower right and left images on the map, Porto Bello and Chagre depict his two major victories. Admiral Vernon claims an interesting footnote in American History. Many American colonists took part in the War of Jenkin's Ear, including a young officer named Lawrence Washington. Lawrence was so impressed with the Admiral that he named his ancestral home in Virginia after him, thus the name Mount Vernon. Lawrence Washington did not have any descendants and the home eventually passed to Lawrence's half-brother, George Washington.

Henry Overton took over his father's map business in 1707 and issued a wide range of maps until 1749. His work generally was issued separately, as in the case of this map. Very few impressions of this map are



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known to exist. We know of two other examples having been offered in the past thirty years, a 1745 example which was sold in 1992 to a private collector, and an example of the first state in the Slaughter Collection, at the New York Public Library.

The following differences have been noted between the two known states, 1741 and 1745: In the first state, the map is printed on two plates, right and left and joined in the center. In the second state the two side panels of views are now separate plates. It is likely that Overton cut the panels off between states so that they could be used with another map. The second state also includes the addition of a portrait of Admiral Vernon above the title cartouche. This circular area is blank in the first state. This third state of the map includes a number of new changes. The date is changed to 1759. The dedication of the map is made to Vice Admiral Edmund Boscanwen, Esq., and the portrait has also been changed. The French claims in the Mississippi and Ohio Valleys are no longer in evidence, Georgia and Savana [sic] are added and there are other changes within the map.

Rarity

The map is rare on the market. We locate only one example at auction in the past 15 years.

Detailed Condition:

Fold split above cartouche and old repaired tear crossing the O in Pacific Ocean, with marginal repair below and to the right in the blank margin.