



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

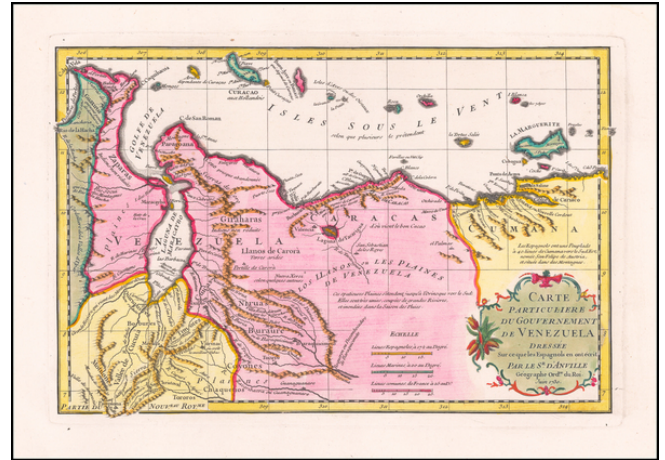
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Carte Particuliere du Gouvernement de Venezuela

Stock#: 60631op
Map Maker: d'Anville
Date: 1730
Place: Paris
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 12 x 8 inches
Price: \$ 450.00



Description:

Striking D'Anville Map of Venezuela

Fine example of D'Anville's map of Venezuela, which features much of the northern part of what is today the country of Venezuela and the Leeward Antilles.

The map shows the mountainous terrain in detail, with rivers and plains also labelled. Major cities like Maracaibo and Caracas are shown, as are Dutch-controlled Aruba and Curaçao. Smaller cities are named, but with notes like, "almost abandoned," as in the case of Coro on the coast south of Curaçao. The Gulf of Venezuela is a major feature to the west.

Most of this detail is clustered near the coasts; the interior remains unmarked, an innovation pioneered by D'Anville who preferred to include only information he could verify in his work. Any uncertainties were labelled as such or left blank. The large *llanos* south of Caracas are thus left open, but they contain a note that reads:

These spacious plains extend as far as the Orino [sic.] to the South: they are very level, cut off from large rivers, and flooded in the rainy season.

Another illustration of his cautious mapmaking style is the note to the right of the map, in Cumana. It reads:

The Spaniards have a population at 40. leagues from Cumana to the southeast, named San Felipe of Austria, and situated in the mountains.



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D'Anville had heard of this town, but could not ascertain its precise location, thus necessitating a note of explanation. Most of his sources for this map came from the Spanish, as D'Anville mentions in the title.

Most of the area shown here was controlled by the Spanish in the eighteenth century. It was split into provinces, several of which—Caracas, Mérida de Maracaibo, and Cumaná—are on this map. Venezuela was a geographical asset, for its long coastline provided opportunities for trade and to build fortifications to protect European trade. The land was also fertile, exporting cocoa, wheat, tobacco, and leather.

Spain was not their primary customer however; traders from other European nations were. This made the Venezuelan coast notorious for smuggling, as the Spanish forbade their colonies to trade with other state actors. Just two years before this map was made, in 1728, the Spanish government granted monopoly trading rights to the Real Compañía Guipuzconan de Caracas to curb British and Dutch trading.

The cocoa plantation, and their use of enslaved African labor, conditioned the social hierarchy which developed in Venezuela. The society was ruled by *peninsulares*, those born in Spain, followed by white Canary Islanders, *pardos* or mixed-race peoples, and then African slaves and Indians.

This map, although it carries no page number or binding instructions, was part of a book for which D'Anville produced several items. This was Father Pierre François Xavier de Charlevoix's *Histoire de L'Isle Espagnole ou de S. Domingue*, the first volume of which was published in Paris in 1730. This was one of the first books to be dedicated to the history of the island and this map was part of an important source for the history and geography of the Caribbean region.

There is another state of the map held at the Bibliotheque Nationale which lacks the decorative cartouche:
<https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b5905887w>

Detailed Condition:

Exceptional contemporary hand-coloring in full.