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Amerique Septentrionale . . . 1650

Stock#: 62025
Map Maker: Sanson

Date: 1650
Place: Paris
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 21.5 x 15.5 inches

Price: SOLD



Description:

One of the Most Influential American Maps of the 17th Century.

Nice old color example of Sanson's landmark map of North America.

Sanson's map was the first map to depict the Great Lakes in a recognizable form, and the first to name Lake Ontario and Lake Superior. Sanson drew on information derived from The Jesuit Relations, published in Paris in 1649, which provided contemporary accounts of many regions of North America visited by French missionaries. His sources included Father Paul Ragueneau's account of his visit to Niagara Falls and Jean Nicollet's discovery of Lake Michigan in 1634. Montreal is named, having been founded by the Sieur de Maisonneuve in 1642.

The area delineated as "Mer Glaciale" is a reference to the Northwest Passage. On the east coast "N[ouvelle] Amsterdam" appears (New York), as does the first appearance on a printed map of "N[ouvelle] Suede," the Swedish colony centered on Fort Christina, founded on the site of present-day Wilmington, Delaware, in 1638.

In the Southwest, Sanson draws up the reports of the travels in New Mexico of Father Alonso Benavides Memorial, published in Madrid, in 1630. It is the first printed map to label "S[anta] Fe" (incorrectly shown the Rio Grande) and the "Apache," "Navajo" and the "Taosij" (Taos) Indian regions. California is shown as a large island, based largely on Johannes de Laet's map of 1630. The region in the north called "Conibas" represents a mythical land between North America and Asia.

Sanson is regarded as the founder of the 'French School' of cartography. His map of North America was

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the most advanced depiction of the continent in the mid-17th Century and was the source map for most subsequent maps for the next 40 years.

Sanson was the first to employ a sinusoidal projection, which was also adopted by John Flamsteed, the first Royal Astronomer appointed by the King of England.

The present example is state 3 of the map (the second obtainable state), with Lake Ontario shaded. State 2 lacks the shading, but is otherwise identical.

Detailed Condition: