Plan of New Orleans

Stock#:   69683
Map Maker: Mitchell Jr.

Date: 1870
Place: Philadelphia
Color: Color
Condition: VG+
Size: 11 x 9.3 inches

Price: SOLD
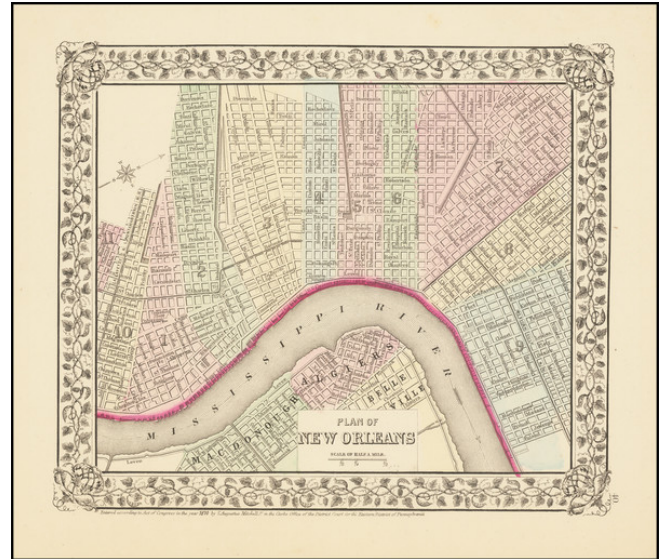
Description:

Mitchell's Map of New Orleans

Published following the Civil War, the SA Mitchell Jr. map of New Orleans provides a captivating window into the city's history during a tumultuous period. As a cartographic document, it captures the changing urban landscape of one of America's most vibrant cities. It also echoes the city's evolution from its colonial past into a bustling metropolis, characterized by economic growth, cultural diversity, and the shadows of a brewing national conflict.

In the mid-19th century, New Orleans stood as the South's largest city and a significant player in the national and international economy. The city's location at the mouth of the Mississippi River had cemented its role as a crucial hub for trade and commerce. Cotton, sugar, and slaves were the lifeblood of its economy, connecting the city to a broad network of regional and global markets.

Oriented with West at the top, the map is hand-colored by wards, and offers a detailed snapshot of the city at this pivotal time. It illustrates a thriving metropolis.

Key infrastructural elements are also depicted on the map. The rail lines, freshly laid and reflecting the technological advances of the era, represent the city's increasing interconnectedness with the broader American landscape. Notably, these tracks would play a strategic role in the imminent Civil War, serving both military and civilian transportation needs. The canals, built earlier in the century, are also prominently shown.

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Following the Civil War, the city underwent significant transformations. Reconstruction brought a period of political and social upheaval, with the city witnessing waves of changes in its urban structure and racial dynamics. By 1880, New Orleans had become a microcosm of the New South, grappling with the legacy of its past while seeking to define its future.

Detailed Condition:

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