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Carte de La Louisiane cours du Mississippi et Pais Voisins Dediee a M. le Comte de Maurepas . . . 1744

Stock#: 71473
Map Maker: Bellin
Date: 1744
Place: Paris
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 22 x 15.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Overview Map of Pierre François-Xavier de Charlevoix's Seminal Explorations in North America

Detailed large format map of the settled portions of North America, extending from New England and the Great Lakes to Florida and west to the Rio Grande River and Spanish New Mexico.

Extending to Santa Fe, Taos, New Mexico and the known regions of the Missouri Valley, Charlevoix's map provides a remarkable overview of the regions of the future United States then known to French Explorers and Fur Traders in the first half of the 18th Century.

The map tracks to the sources of the Mississippi River and depicts 4 of the 5 Great Lakes (excluding Lake Superior), providing the most up to date compilation of information on the hydrographical basin of the Mississippi River, Ohio River and the major river systems between the Mississippi River Valley and the Apalaches (Appalachian) Mountains.

The map is one of Bellin's earliest maps of any part of North America. The map was produced to illustrate the regions described in Charlevoix's *Histoire et description générale de la Nouvelle France*. The map was compiled in part from the Chaussegros de Lery manuscripts and is also noteworthy for the fictitious mountain range in Michigan. Rich with Indian information, notes, early French forts and other early features.

In 1720 the Duke of Orleans sent the Jesuit scholar and explorer Pierre François-Xavier de Charlevoix to America to record events in New France and Louisiana and determine the best route to the Pacific Ocean.



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Charlevoix gathered geographic information from fur traders in Quebec and traveled through the Great Lakes and down the Mississippi River. After he returned to France, Charlevoix published his views on North America in his *Histoire et description générale de la Nouvelle France*, which has become one of the most important works on North America during the period prior to the French & Indian (Seven Years) War.

Thomas Jefferson owned a copy of Charlevoix's *Histoire et description générale* and recommended it, along with the accounts of Hennepin and Lahontan, as a "particularly useful species of reading." He referred to Charlevoix's book as he developed his own ideas of Louisiana and the Northwest.

Detailed Condition:

Old folds. Trimmed at or inside platemark, not affecting the image.