



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

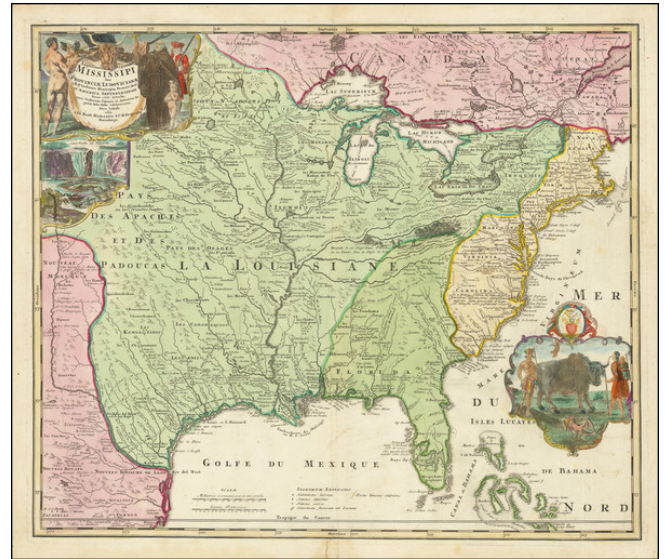
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**Amplissimae Regionis Mississippi Seu Provinciae Ludovicianae A R.P. Ludovico
Hennepin Francisc Miss In America Septentrionali Anno 1687 . . .**

Stock#: 73950
Map Maker: Homann
Date: 1720
Place: Nuremberg
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 22.5 x 19 inches
Price: \$ 2,200.00



Description:

Striking full-color example of Homann's map of the Course of the Mississippi River. The map is notable for being based upon the reports of Louis Hennepin, the French Jesuit missionary who explored the upper Mississippi and Great Lakes regions in the late seventeenth century.

Homann's "Louisiana Province" is one of the most attractive early maps of the American interior, as well as being politically provocative. The map illustrates the eastern half of the future United States, focusing on the region called "La Louisiane," control of which was actively contested by Spain and France throughout the 1700s.

Homann's map is drawn from Guillaume De L'Isle's seminal *Carte de la Louisiane et du Cours du Mississippi of 1718*. Delisle's labeling of the territory west of the Appalachians as La Louisiane assumed a French proprietorship that provoked angry protests from the Spanish and British governments. Homann repeated the label on the present map, thus perpetuating a cartographic battle in which the mapmakers of each country issued publications showing their preferences toward political claims.

The map follows the geographical tendencies of the aforementioned de L'Isle map. The Mississippi is oddly misplotted, with the Ohio and several other tributaries splitting to the east and tracking near a decorative vignette showing Indians hunting long-horn buffalo in forested lands.



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The western rivers, including the Missouri, are equally inaccurate. The Missouri terminates at the furthest pointed reached by Louis-Armand de Lahontan as part of his search along the "Riviere Longue" for a transcontinental route. Going southwards, The map shows a number of explorers' routes throughout the southwest and Louisiana and annotations regarding various regions. Many Indian Tribes and early forts were named. Florida is an archipelago.

The map includes a very early form of the word Texas, seen in the legend reading "Mission de las Teyas, etablie en 1716" near present-day San Antonio. Other Texas-related detail is particularly embellished.

The title cartouche shows Father Hennepin with allegorical figures depicting his exploration of the New World. The vignette shows an early representation of an American bison flanked by Indians. This dedication is a reinforcement of French proprietorship of the Louisiana region.

This is, without a doubt, one of the most interesting and decorative regional maps of America from the period.

Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color. Small repaired tear from the bottom edge just inside the neatline near the vertical centerfold.