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Plan General de la Ciudad de Mexico, Levantado Por el Teniente Coronel Don Diego Garcia Conde en el Año de 1793 y Gravado en Miniature en Londres por Eduardo Mogg el Año 1811

Stock#: 74543
Map Maker: Conde / Mogg
Date: 1811
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 22.5 x 20 inches
Price: \$ 4,200.00



Description:

Scarce English Edition of one of the Earliest Printed Maps of Mexico City

Rare 1811 English edition of Diego Garcia Conde's seminal plan of Mexico City, first published in Mexico City in 1807.

This is the earliest reasonably obtainable example for collectors, preceded only by the extremely rare 9-sheet original.

Brigadier General Diego Garcia Conde's *Plano General de la Ciudad de México* is generally regarded as one of the most important plans of Mexico City. It was reprinted in many editions across the Americas and Europe and served as the exemplar of plans of the city for much of the nineteenth century.

The original map was engraved by the renowned artist José Joaquín Fabregat and produced by a team of artists who led New Spain's premier art institution, the *Real Academia de Nobles Artes de San Carlos de Nueva España*. The original map plates were destroyed and very few examples of the original survive.

This English edition, published by Edward Mogg in London, faithfully recreates the original in a single sheet. Mexico City radiates from the *Zócalo*, or *Plaza de Palacio* as it is written here. This square had



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been the city's center since before the arrival of the Spanish, when the city was called Tenochtitlan and it was the capital of the Aztec Empire. Here, we can see the precise layouts of the Cathedral and Royal Palace, with its gardens, paths, and courtyards.

Just to the west is the Alameda, with its pathways and manicured gardens. Another building of note is to the southwest. Although it looks like a fortress, it is actually the Royal Factory of Cigars. The other city blocks are laid out in an ordered grid pattern, with new tree-lined avenues showing plans for future expansion.

The city is split into eight quarters, which are explained alphabetically by street name in the key to the right of the map. The scale and names of the mapmakers are included below.

Conde's initial survey and publication of the map

Garcia Conde initially undertook his survey during the period New Spain was governed by Juan Vicente de Güemes Pacheco de Padilla Horcasitas, the second Count of Revillagigedo, who is credited with the modernization and dramatic improvement of Mexico City (1789-94).

Güemes ordered the beautification of walks, squares, and alleys, introduced rental carts, and organized the police service. These endeavors converted Mexico City into what would become known as the "City of Palaces." To improve communication and commercial traffic, Güemes ordered the design and construction of a network of modern roads, emphasizing the routes from Mexico City to Veracruz, and ordered engineering works to save ravines and rivers.

Diego Garcia Conde (1760-1822) was born in Barcelona, but came to New Spain as a captain of the Spanish Dragoons. He fought for Spain in the War of Independence and later served as an engineer in Mexico, overseeing such projects as the construction of the road between Veracruz and Jalapa. In 1822, he became Director General of the Corps of Engineers and founded the Academy for Cadets.

Whereas Conde is credited with the map, he is better characterized as the surveyor. He was one of a group of men who contributed to the final printed product. As identified at the bottom of the key to the right, the map was engraved by José Joaquín Fabregat (1748-1807) and printed by Manuel Lopez Lopez. Lopez Lopez operated a print shop on *Calle Escalerillas*. Fabregat was a renowned engraver, the most prominent in Mexico at the turn of the nineteenth century, who trained in Spain and taught in New Spain.

The views and decorative elements of the map were drawn by Rafael Ximeno y Planes (1759-1807).



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Ximeno y Planes was an accomplished painter who trained in Madrid and Rome. He moved to the colonies, where he was named Director General of the *Real Academia de Nobles Artes de San Carlos de Nueva España*, founded in 1781. Fabregat and Lopez were both associated with the *Real Academia* as well.

Editions, variations, and reductions of the map

The map, while rare in this first edition, was well respected and received, inspiring many subsequent editions and variations. These include:

- *Plan general de la ciudad de México, levantado por el teniente coronel D. Diego García Conde en el año de 1793, y grabado en miniatura en Londres, por Eduardo Mogg, el año 1811.*
- *Plan de la Ville de México dressé sur les lieux par le colonel comte D. Diego García, 1824 - A reduced edition of the map published in *Atlas Historique avec l'explication des planches, Paris, 1831.**
- *Plano general de la ciudad de México, levantado por el teniente coronel D. Diego García Conde en el año de 1793. Aumentado y corregido en lo más notable por el teniente coronel retirado D. Rafael María Calvo, en el de 1830- Engraved in New York.*
- *Plano general de la ciudad de México, 1849 - Printed in Paris by Bauerkeller y Co.*
- *Plano general de la ciudad de México, formado según los datos más recientemente adquiridos, para servir a la Guia de Forasteros, publicada por el Sr. general Juan N. Almonte. Año de 1853 -Lithographic print.*
- *Plano general de la ciudad de México. Año de 1858 - Lithographic print produced in Paris for a travel guide to Mexico.*
- *Plano general de la ciudad de México, Año de 1858 - Lithographic print produced in Mexico by Decaen, part of *México y sus alrededores.**
- *Plano general de la capital de la República Mexicana, 1860 - Part of a book titled, *Viajero en México*, published by Juan N. del Valle.*
- *Plano general de la ciudad de México, 1861 - Another lithographic print by Decaen, also released in editions of 1863, 1864, 1865.*

Rarity

The English edition is scarce on the market.

Detailed Condition:



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Segmented and laid on linen, with modern case. Color faded.