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Les Postes qui Traversent La France Corrigees et Aumentees suivant les derniers Etablissements . . . 1676

Stock#: 76974
Map Maker: Sanson
Date: 1679
Place: Paris
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG+
Size: 21 x 16 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Updated Issue of the First Postal Road Map

Significantly revised and improved 1679 edition of the first postal route map of France, originally published in 1632.

The first edition of the map was issued several years after France created the first national postal system with fixed rates and time schedules in 1627. The present edition was issued shortly after France became the first country to create a national postal system in 1672.

[According to a Princeton University site on thematic maps :](#)

This is the first postal road map -also the first important map issued by Sanson. The map shows all of the routes used by the royal posts of the time, identifying the stops along the way; it was reprinted many times during the seventeenth century. . . .

This updated state, while using the same copperplate as the first state, shows numerous improvements and updates. The post roads have been heavily developed, with more remote parts of the country (such as Brittany) now receiving their own post routes. In addition, national borders have been drawn in, and all the major regions of France are explicitly named. As in previous states, this map has a curious incursion into London, stopping by way of "Cantorbery."



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The French Post

In 1477, Louis XI set up a Royal Postal Service, employing 230 mounted couriers, which was not intended for public use. The security and regularity of the service along certain routes, when compared to previous means of communication, inevitably resulted in an increasing amount of unofficial correspondence being carried. After initial attempts to prevent this practice, its fiscal advantages were realized, and private mailings were legalized in the early 17th Century. The basis of a real public service was not created until 1627, when fees and timetables were fixed and post offices established in the larger cities.

In 1672, France made postal services a controlled state monopoly. Previously granted private operators were allowed to continue, but over time they were forced out of business or acquired by the state. In 1719 the University of Paris, the most important private competitor, gave up its last postal privileges in return for substantial compensation.

Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color.