



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

A Map of Louisiana And Of The River Mississippi . . . / This Map of the Mississippi Is Most humbly Inscribed to William Law of Lawreston Esq.

Stock#: 82169
Map Maker: Senex
Date: 1721
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 22.5 x 19 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The First English Map of French Louisiana and the Mississippi Valley

Nice example of Senex's map of Louisiana, based upon De L'Isle's seminal map of 1718, which was the first map to name Texas (Tejas).

The map retains the outstanding detail of De L'Isle's map but includes English nomenclature and translations for most of the notes. The map extends west to the Rio Grande and provides an excellent depiction of Mississippi, Missouri and other major rivers and tributaries in the region, based upon contemporary knowledge.

There are a number of annotations throughout the map, including notes on early exploration and settlement, Spanish trade with the Indians (Gold on the Upper Missouri!), and early routes of the Spanish and French explorers in the region. Florida is depicted as an Archipelago. Many Indian Villages are shown, along with the Promiscuous Nations and Nations Destroyed. "Chicagou" appears on Lake Michigan. Many early mines and forts are depicted.

De L'Isle's Map of Louisiana

De L'Isle's map is "the first large-scale map accurately showing the lower Mississippi River and surrounding areas" and the first printed map to properly locate and name "Texas." "The most important



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notation to Texas history [on the map]... was that appearing along the Trinity: 'Mission de los Tiejas, etablie in 1716.' . . . This phrase marked the first appearance of a form of the name Texas on a printed map, and thus Delisle has received proper credit for establishing Texas as a geographic place name."

De L'Isle's map is one of the most widely copied and influential maps ever produced. The map contains the first indications of the explorations of De Soto, Cavelier, Tonty, Moscoso and Denis. It included the best depiction of the Mississippi River to date, for the first time presenting a roughly accurate delineation of its entire length, as well as a semblance of accuracy about many of its tributaries. It was also the first map to include the name Texas with the legend "Mission de los Teijas," indicating a Mission established in 1716. As noted by Cohen:

*A significant map in Western American history and a work by one of the greatest mapmakers of all time. The map revealed for the first time the importance of the Missouri River and gave the most accurate delineation of the Mississippi Valley up to that time... [Delisle's] passion for pure scientific accuracy is reflected on his maps. If geographic information had not been directly observed by a reliable source, he refused to acknowledge it. Many longstanding myths and errors that had been passed from mapmaker to mapmaker for generations were suddenly absent on Delisle's maps.
A seminal map for Americana collectors.*

Detailed Condition:

Minor toning. Minor dampstain at bottom margin and a bit of foxing.