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Norman's New Orleans and Environs: Containing a Brief Historical Sketch of the Territory and State of Louisiana, and the City of New Orleans [with map:] Norman's Plan of New Orleans and Environs, 1845.

Stock#: 84165
Map Maker: Norman / Moellhausen
Date: 1845
Place: New Orleans
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 24 x 17.75 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

With a Beautiful Plan of New Orleans

Norman's guidebook to New Orleans lives up to its subtitle, presenting a rich compendium of information on "all subjects of general interest to the southern metropolis," including an account of its early history and settlement. The easy flowing text contains historically interesting descriptions that resonate to this day:

The view of New Orleans from the river, in ascending or descending, is beautiful and imposing- seen from the dome of the St. Charles Exchange, it presents a panorama at once magnificent and surprising. In taking a lounge through the lower part of the city, the stranger finds a difficulty in believing himself to be in an American city - page 69.

A section titled *Excursions* provides information on surrounding areas such as Carrolton, Macdonough, and nearby racecourses (*the Louisiana*, near Lake Pontchartrain; the Metairie; and one at Carrolton).

The beautiful and fine folding plan, engraved by Shields & Hammond in New Orleans is a famous mid-19th century mapping of the city. Henry Moellhausen (or Mollhausen), an important early surveyor and architect, mostly active in the 1840s, is credited with drawing the "original draught" of the plan. His plan shows the city divided into three districts, with boundaries marked with double green and pink lines. The Mississippi River is nicely colored in blue watercolor wash. An index key printed in the lower margin of the map identifies 80 numbered buildings and sites, including hotels, exchanges, banks, churches, theatres,



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hospitals, markets, cotton presses, and public buildings.

In addition to the large folding plan of New Orleans, there are two additional maps within the text: *New Orleans in 1728* and *Environs of New Orleans*, the latter showing Lake Pontchartrain, Lake St. Catharine, and Lake Borgne, as well as the steamboat lines into New Orleans. Also notable is the engraved frontispiece view of the New Orleans waterfront showing several tall-masted sailing ships, a small flatboat, a paddle steamer, and a few people in the foreground, including a pair of well-dressed merchants or planters and three African Americans (including a woman). According to the preface, the various engravings illustrating the book are after original artwork made especially for this work by a Mr. Cowell.

Sabin and Howes fail to mention the large folding plan, which suggests that copies of Norman's guidebook were not always issued with the map.

An important early descriptive work on New Orleans with a fine mid-19th century plan showing the urban expansion of the city up to the date of publication.

Detailed Condition:

12mo. Original blindstamped publisher's cloth, with gilt-stamped title on front cover and spine, expertly rebaked with original backstrip laid down. Corners a bit frayed. Binder's cloth reinforcement to inner hinges. 19th-century Mercantile Library Association Library of Baltimore bookplate on front pastedown. Small ink accession number on title page. Blindstamp on pages 9 and 11. Folding engraved map, 24 x 17 1/2 inches, with outline hand coloring on municipality boundaries, and with Mississippi River hand-colored. Map in exceptionally nice condition. 223 pages plus [4] pages of ads, and [12] pages of blank "memoranda" pages. Engraved frontispiece and numerous engravings in the text, including churches and public buildings and 2 additional maps. Complete. A presentation copy from the publisher, inscribed on front free endpaper to "Chas. R. Kennedy, Esq, with the comps. of the Publisher."