



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman  
Antique Maps Inc.**

7407 La Jolla Boulevard  
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500  
blr@raremaps.com

**(Districts of Howard, St. Louis, Girardeau, and Laurence) Carte dressee pour la lecture  
de La Prairie Roman de J. Fenimore Cooper**

**Stock#:** 86050  
**Map Maker:** Tardieu / Cooper  
**Date:** 1835  
**Place:** Paris  
**Color:** Outline Color  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 5.5 x 6.5 inches  
**Price:** \$ 450.00



**Description:**

***Rare Appearance of the Old Spanish Districts of the Louisiana.***

An unusual and very scarce map made to illustrate a French edition of J. Fenimore Cooper's *The Prairie* and showing five proto-states west of the Mississippi, as well as a very detailed Missouri Territory.

The geopolitical divisions shown on the map are very unusual, and something that we have not been able to find duplicated on any map. West of the Mississippi, it shows, from south to north, Louisiana, Arkansas, Laurence, Girardeau, St. Louis, and Howard; each (except for the top two) extending to present-day Kansas and Oklahoma.

This geography has been called the remnant of the old Spanish and French districts of Louisiana, but this is unlikely for several reasons. Firstly, New Madrid appears to have ruled its own district of the same name when it was first formed. Secondly, Howard, west of St. Louis, likely draws its name from the last pre-statehood governor of Missouri, although this is conjecture.

We have previously seen only one map with a similar division, although it did not name Girardeau County, and did not delineate Arkansas and Louisiana. This was a [very rare Spanish map](#), published in 1834 in Madrid. It is possible that this map draws from that other, or that they both draw from a similar cartographic zeitgeist active in France and Spain at the time.



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The map is also interesting for its detailed treatment of the interior of the continent, naming a number of Native American Tribes and giving a detailed treatment to the Rocky Mountains and Plains.

This map was published in Paris in 1835 by Aristide Michel Perrot and engraved by Pierre Tardieu to accompany a French edition of Cooper's work. The map shows the route taken in the story from Cairo westwards along with places of interest.

**Detailed Condition:**