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(First State!) Carte De La Louisiane Et Du Cours Du Mississipi . . . Juin 1718

Stock#: 87221
Map Maker: De L'Isle
Date: 1718
Place: Paris
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG
Size: 25.5 x 19 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The First Printed Map to Name Texas. "The First Large-Scale Map Accurately Showing the Lower Mississippi River and Surrounding Areas" (Schwartz)

The rare first state of the seminal De L'Isle map of the French territory of Louisiane, one of the most important and influential maps of the 18th century.

This is one of the most widely copied and influential maps of the 18th century. The map contains the indications of the explorations of De Soto, Cavelier, Tonty, Moscoso, and Denis throughout Texas, the Midwest, and the Great Lakes regions and was the first indication of the discoveries of the latter explorers. The map shows 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. The appearance of the phrase "Mission de los Teijas," indicating a mission established in 1716, makes this the first map to use the name Texas. Regarding this, Martin & Martin state that for this contribution, "Delisle has received proper credit for establishing Texas as a geographic place name."

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.



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The map stretches from Florida to Texas and from the mouth of the Rio Grande to the English colonies. Florida is shown in an archipelago configuration, while the English colonies are pressed against the coast, a provocative symbol of French power and cartographic propaganda. An extremely detailed inset shows the mouth of the Mississippi, highlighting the map's focus on that great river.

De L'Isle's rendering of Texas is a notable improvement over previous maps. The river system and coastline are much more accurate in this map and begin to take their modern form. Much of the information here comes from the expeditions of the French-Canadian soldier Louis Juchereau de St. Denis, one of the most important explorers of Spanish Texas. His route is marked on the map, alongside many other early explorers.

This is an exceptionally important map of the interior of North America. A foundational map for Americana collectors.

Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color, in outline. Copperplate engraving on 18th-century laid paper with a watermark of a cross, surrounded by a laurel wreath. Minor dampstain and soiling in upper part of map.