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United States of Nth America -- Carte des Etats-Unis De L'Amerique Septentrionale Copiee et Gravee sure celle D'Arrowsmith . . . 1802

Stock#: 2048 
Map Maker: Tardieu
Date: 1802
Place: Paris
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG
Size: 54 x 47 inches (if joined)
Price: SOLD

Description:

Striking large format map of the United States by Pierre Tardieu, one of the best engraved large format maps of the United States from the period.

Tardieu's map is based upon the true first state of Arrowsmith's map of the United States, which has been completely re-engraved by Tardieu, and reflects the finer engraving skills of this Paris engraver. In addition to the decorative cartouche present in Arrowsmith's map, Tardieu has added a plan of Washington DC, based upon Ellicott's plan.

The map is a landmark of American Cartography prior to Lewis & Clark. The interior detail of the trans-Mississippi west was compiled largely from accounts supplied by Native Americans to Arrowsmith, by the Hudson's Bay Company. The course of the Missouri River delineated on the map prompted Lewis and Clark to plot their course along the Missouri River, as it appeared to be the most direct route to the Pacific. This is the first edition of the map.

The present map came to the attention of Thomas Jefferson, who specifically reached out to the Tardieu family to update the map. The Tardieus exchanged maps with Thomas Jefferson on several occasions, specially in aid of the Tardieu's efforts to incorporate information from Lewis & Clark and others into their maps (see, e.g. letter from P.A.F. Tardieu to Jefferson dated May 30, 1809.

<https://www.loc.gov/item/mtjbib019962/>). Thomas Jefferson wrote to Tardieu on one occasion, thanking him for his excellent maps of the United States and the Bay of Mexico, and in return, Jefferson sent Tardieu a survey of the Mississippi River from its source to the mouth of the Ohio, and promises a map of Louisiana from "Gov. Lewis, who conducted the journey to the South Sea as soon as it appears."

All editions are rare, but we have never before seen an example of the 1802 edition.



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Detailed Condition:

Unjoined, in 4 sheets. A few minor tears in the margins and 1 or two extending into the image, plus a few reinforcements at the old folds, but generally a beautiful example.