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Mappe-Monde Dressee Pour l'Etude de la Geographie, Relativement Aux Auteurs Les Plus Modernes

Stock#: 98721
Map Maker: Desnos / Brion de la Tour
Date: 1790
Place: Paris
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 12 x 11 inches (map image)
Price: \$ 375.00



Description:

A map of the world from Desnos' *Atlas General Methodique et Elementaire, Pour l'Edude de la Geographie et de l'Histoire Moderne* that appears to be from 1790. The map shows the world according to European knowledge of the time. The map is hand colored and outlined to give a striking representation of the different continents of the world. While the date given for the map is 1790, this appears to be the [1786 state](#) less the ornate border but with the inclusion of text. Desnos adapted the earlier works of Brion de la Tour to aid in making these maps.

Elegant engravings flank the map with an elegant cartouche showing the name of the map and the people credited with its creation. Below the map are two figures holding up the globes, presumably stylized depictions of the Titan Atlas (perhaps one is Heracles?)

There is also an effort to include depictions of known cities throughout the world. Many of the included cities are points of interest in trade or religion that illustrate the global knowledge and desires of Europeans of this period. Commercial metropolises from all over are depicted: Timbucktu and Algiers in Africa, Canton and Nankin in Asia, with Boston and New Orleans in the Americas just to name a few. Cities of key importance in Europe are shown, as are centers for religious activities like Rome, Constantinople, and Jerusalem. All these inclusions indicate the knowledge and interests of Europeans during the late 18th century.

The representations of the continents are rough with interesting cartographic mistakes abound. California is depicted almost like an island with the Mer de l'Ouest (Western Ocean) occupying much of the West. One can see the shape of North America beginning to form, admittedly with some glaring inaccuracies. The Polynesian Islands are depicted near the combined landmass of Australia and New Guinea, further



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showing the increased cartographic knowledge of Western mapmakers during this time.

Detailed Condition: