



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Spain and Portugal; divided into their respective Kingdoms and Provinces, from the Spanish and Portugese Provincial Maps. London. Published by W. Faden, Geographer to His Majesty and to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales June 4th. 1796

Stock#: 102826
Map Maker: Faden
Date: 1796
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 29 x 20 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Attractive example of this engraved map of Spain and Portugal produced by William Faden, Geographer to His Majesty and to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. Published in 1796, it illustrates the provinces and kingdoms of the Iberian Peninsula, demonstrating a remarkable fidelity to Spanish and Portuguese provincial maps.

At the time of the map's creation, the echoes of the French Revolution were being felt across Europe. The subsequent wave of Enlightenment thinking and the rise of nationalism would soon lead to the Peninsular War, forever altering the political geography of Spain and Portugal. This map captures a critical moment in time, preserving the quiet before significant historical upheaval.

A visually striking feature of the map lies in the lower right corner, where an ornate title cartouche occupies the space. Goats and grapes surround a prominent rock (Gibraltar), a reference to the agricultural richness of the region, while ships at sea highlight the Iberian Peninsula's maritime heritage.

Dominating this tableau is a woman holding a branch, positioned near a plaque bearing the inscription "HISPANIA SC". This figure, representing Hispania, personifies the Iberian Peninsula, a widespread trope of the era. The initials "SC" stand for "Senatus Consultum", pointing to the authority of the Roman Senate. The presence of Hispania and the Roman Senate's insignia together signify the lasting impact of Roman governance on the region, neatly tying the present geographical representation to its historical antecedents.



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Detailed Condition:

Engraving. Original hand-color in full. Minor offsetting.