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**Course of the River Mississippi, from the Balise to Fort Chartres; Taken on an Expedition  
to the Illinois, in the latter end of the Year 1765. By Lieut. Ross . . . 1775**

**Stock#:** 17780  
**Map Maker:** Sayer  
**Date:** 1775  
**Place:** London  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 44.5 x 14 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



**Description:**

Highly detailed map of the Mississippi River, from just north of the confluence of the Ohio River to the Gulf of Mexico.

Lieutenant Ross' large scale map of the Mississippi River is of the few large format maps of the Mississippi published during the 18th Century. Ross' map of the Mississippi was the first official English survey of the



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Lower Mississippi, and one of the most historically significant American maps, delineating the British gains from France in the French and Indian War and later establishing the future western boundary of the new United States. The map opened the area to settlement from the east and defined the western limits of the American colonies.

The map provides a large scale depiction of the river and its topographical features, such as islands in the river, navigational instructions, other rivers and connecting tributaries, boundaries, towns and settlements, forts, local history (including the spot where De Soto discovered the Mississippi in 1541), quarries and potential mining areas, productive land, cane fields, and mountains and other topographical details. A number of Indian Tribes are shown, including the Flathead, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Chackhuma, "Akansas or the Handsome Men," Wiapes, Corrois, Yazoo, Ofogoulas, Chepousse, Caskaskias, Colapissas (later known as Huoma), and others. Frederick Webb Hodge ( *Handbook of American Indians North of Mexico*) makes numerous citations to this map.

Following the Treaty of Paris, a British expedition was sent to the Illinois territory to demand the surrender of Fort de Chartres, the last outpost under French control in the area. Lieutenant John Ross, surveyor of the 34th Regiment of the British Army, went with this expedition and surveyed the lower part of the River, below Fort Chartres, to the mouth of the Mississippi River. The eastern bank of the river contains more detail than the western side, because the expedition could not enter Spanish territory.

**Detailed Condition:**