



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

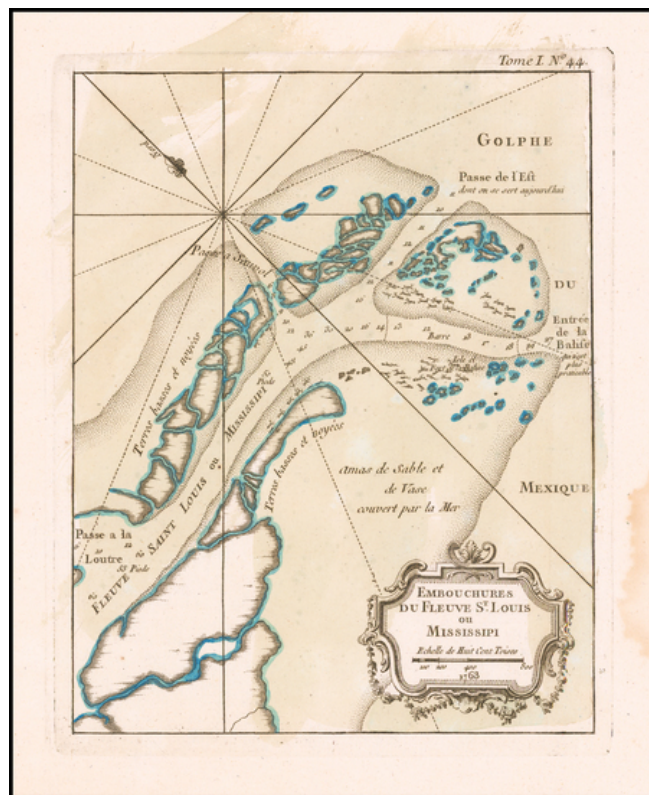
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## Embouchures de Fleuve St. Louis ou Mississippi

**Stock#:** 59150  
**Map Maker:** Bellin  
**Date:** 1764  
**Place:** Paris  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 6.5 x 8.5 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

Fine early chart the mouth of the Mississippi River, from Bellin's *Petit Atlas Maritime*.

The two primary navigable channels for entry into the Mississippi River are shown, with soundings for navigation.

At the center right, in an area marked with symbols for drifting wood, the Island and Fort of Balise (or Balize) is shown. This was the point at which sailing vessels planning to navigate up the Mississippi River would take on a pilot familiar with the journey, to aid in navigating the difficult course through the Mississippi Delta.

### Fort Balize

The site of La Balize dates to the arrival Robert de La Salle, who claimed the land in 1682 for the French crown. De La Salle noted the site as important for monitoring two major forks in the river, so passage could be controlled. By 1721 the French built a 62-foot high wooden pyramid and established a the



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settlement.

In the early 18th century, the Roman Catholic Church created seven pioneer parishes in the Louisiana colony, including La Balize, founded in 1722.

Despite its vulnerability to hurricanes, the site became the primary location where pilots could meet the ships. The complicated conditions on the Mississippi River required ships to have river pilots to help them navigate the bar, with its changing currents, mud and sandbars, and avoid going aground. After the Americans took control of the territory by the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, they sometimes called the village Pilotsville.

**Detailed Condition:**

Old Color.