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[First Map to Name The United States] L'Amerique septentrionale ou se remarquent les Etats Unis . . . 1779

Stock#: 94192
Map Maker: Brion de la Tour / Esnauts & Rapilly
Date: 1779
Place: Paris
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG
Size: 28.5 x 20 inches
Price: \$ 4,800.00



Description:

The First Printed Map to Name the United States (Etats-Unis)

Nice example of Esnauts & Rapilly's landmark American map, generally regarded as the first map to name the United States.

This map and Lattre's map are considered the two earliest maps to use the name Etats-Unis (United States) in the title of the map.

The map delineates United States in the midst of the American Revolution, but shows a very unusual "Floride Occidente, which extends north to the mountains of North Carolina, claiming all of the future Mississippi and Alabama as part of West Florida. The region between the Mississippi and Appalachians, south of the Great Lakes, remains filled with French Forts.

A note along the Mississippi River, just south of the mouth of the Missouri River, a note reads:

Missi-sipi F qui sert de bornes aux Dominations Espagnoles et Anglo-Américaine

(Mississippi River which serves as the limits to the Spanish and Anglo-American Dominations).

West of the Great Lakes and Lac Ouinipigon (Winnipeg), the River of the West is still shown, extending toward Drake's Nouvelle Albion, with Quivia and the R. Colorado de las Martyrs shown further south. The



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west coast is a mix of mythical discoveries (De Font/Fuente, Juan de Fuca and Martin d'Aguilar) and the Russian discoveries.

The appearance of "Puerto de S. Francisco" is an unusual anomaly. First, it is placed well north of its true location. More interestingly, it is likely the third appearance of San Francisco Bay on a printed map, pre-dated only by Miguel Costanso's Carta Reducida Del Oceano Asiatico, Ó Mar Del Sur, Que Comprehende La Costa Oriental Y Occidental De La Peninsula De La California), (1771) and a map of America by Lopez dated 1772. The rest of the cartographic world remained ignorant of the existence of San Francisco Bay until 1790, when a copy of Costanso's map was acquired by Alexander Dalrymple in England, who thereafter published an English copy.

There are several later more common editions of the map, including one dated 1783 and one dated 1796 (An VII, in the year of the French Republic).

Rarity

The map is rare on the market. AMPR / oldmaps.com locates 2 examples in dealer catalogs in the past 30 years (1999 and 2001, quite possibly the same example) and 1 copy at auction (2001).

Detailed Condition:

From Freeman's: Repaired short closed tear in upper right edge; repaired tear in left edge; small loss in top corners; scattered light soiling along recto edges; ink smudge bottom left; faint dampstaining in top right; wear along verso edges.