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Le Nouveau Mexique et La Floride: Tirees de diverses Cartes, et Relations . . . (Unrecorded Final State!)

Stock#: 95577
Map Maker: Sanson
Date: 1656 (after 1679)
Place: Paris
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG+
Size: 21.5 x 12.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Previously Unknown Final State of Sanson's Landmark Map of the Southern Parts of North America

Fine example of Nicolas Sanson's landmark regional map of North America, being the first large-scale map to depict California and the Southwest and Sanson's first large-format regional map of any portion of North America.

Sanson's map of the southern part of North America has the distinction of being the first large format regional map of North America prepared by this highly influential French mapmaker, whose revolutionary approach to the presentation of geographical knowledge on a printed map was responsible not only for the advancing French cartographic knowledge to the forefront of Europe's mapping of the New World, but perhaps even more importantly was responsible for profoundly altered the style and discipline associated with the graphic depiction of cartographic imagery, the essence of the map maker's art for the next 100 years. Before Sanson, the era begun by the Italian perspective artists of the 15th and 16th centuries and refined in the Low Countries by the skills of the fine master engravers of the Golden Age of Dutch Cartography objectivized maps not only for their content, but also as works of art. In Sanson's work, the embellishment of geographical imagery begins to give way to the science of geographical and spatial depiction. While it would be another 100 years before the mapmaker's art would truly be eclipsed by science, Sanson's work is without question and important point of inflection in this history, adding importance to this his first large-format regional map of North America.

Sanson's map is the earliest to concentrate on Spanish territories from Florida to California and provided a prototype for other mapmakers over the next 50 years. Engraved by Jean Somer, it improves upon Sanson's *Amerique Septentrionale* in many ways. Amongst them is the first application of ERIE LAC to a



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recognizable lake. The depiction of California as an island was one of two most influential models (the other being the Briggs model), and was used as a model by many later cartographers.

First published separately, the map appeared in Sanson's atlases and later in composite atlases for the next 70 years. The Pierre Mariette in the title of the first state is the son of Nicolas Sanson's business partner of the same name, who provided the original investment for Sanson's business but died in 1657. The Northwest Coastline is substantially revised from Sanson's map of North America. The Rio Grande, still mistakenly flowing southwest, includes many new Indian Names not present in the map of North America. The curious peninsula at the top of the Northwest Coast of the mainland (Agubela De Cato) is of unknown origin.

States of the map

Per Burden 319, there are four states of the map. The states can be identified as follows:

- State 1: Date on the map (1656) and the imprint "Chez Pierre Marriett, Rue S. Iaque...1656."
- State 2: Imprint reads: "Chez l'Autheu...1656."
- State 3: Adds an "r" to the word "Autheu," but retains the 1656 date.
- State 4: Dated 1679.

To this, we can add the present, final state of the map in which the date "1679" has been intentionally burnished from the printing matrix. This might relate to Pierre Moullart-Sanson's acquisitions of the Sanson family business and plates in the first decade of the 18th century, at which time he modified many of the plates to remove dates and slightly change imprint lines. Thus:

- State 5: 1679 date removed.

Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color in outline. An excellent example.