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Scenic and Historic Illinois State of Illinois

Stock#: 96709
Map Maker: Rand McNally & Company
Date: 1953
Place: Chicago
Color: Color
Condition: VG+
Size: 21.2 x 33.2 inches
Price: \$ 145.00



Description:

Scenic and Historic Illinois State of Illinois, commissioned under the governorship of William G. Stratton in 1953, offers a comprehensive representation of the state's significant historical and recreational sites. The map depicts markers such as the locations of the Lincoln-Douglas debate, the Lincoln National Memorial Highway, and an array of state parks, memorials, and wildlife conservation areas. A poignant detail to note is the emphasis on the exact locations of these landmarks, with the reverse side providing a descriptive text and a highway map for precision. This item offers a unique insight into the mid-20th-century perception of Illinois's historical and natural heritage.

The 1950s marked a period of increased nationalistic pride and remembrance in the United States. This



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was a time of post-World War II prosperity and the commencement of the Cold War. Within this context, states sought to establish a cohesive identity, reinforcing their historical and cultural significance. In Illinois, this was epitomized by the emphasis on historical events like the Lincoln-Douglas debate, a series of political confrontations that had long-lasting implications for the country's political landscape.

The technique of the map, lithographed by Rand McNally & Co., speaks to the robust cartographic traditions of the time. The map is not just a geographical representation but an interweaving of history and geography, placing landmarks in context while also acknowledging spatial constraints, as seen with the illustrative placement of the Starved Rock State Park. Such considerations highlight the balance between the artistic representation and geographical accuracy pursued by cartographers in this era.

This map serves as a testament to Illinois's commitment to both its natural beauty and its storied past. Whether it's the preservation of wildlife through fish rearing units and game refuges or the honoring of political legacies with designated memorials and highways, the state's essence is eloquently captured in this piece. The document stands as a testament to a period where historical consciousness and recreational appreciation converged, all against the backdrop of a vibrant mid-century America.

Detailed Condition:

Folding map.