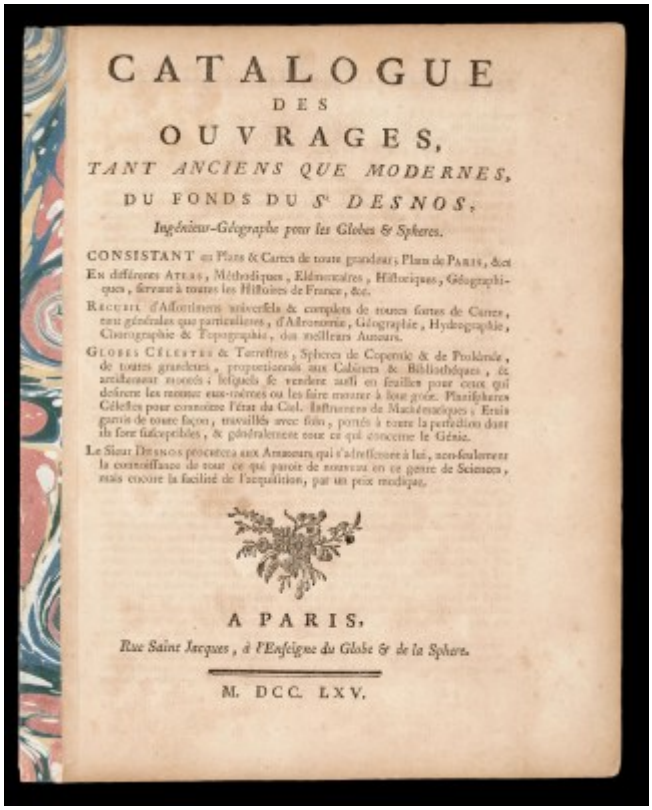


CATALOGUE
DES
OUVRAGES,
TANT ANCIENS QUE MODERNES,
DU FONDS DU S^r *DESNOS,*
Ingénieur-Géographe pour les Globes & Spheres.

CONSISTANT en Plans & Cartes de toute grandeur; Plans de PARIS, &c.
En différens ATLAS, Méthodiques, Elémentaires, Historiques, Géographiques, servant à toutes les Histoires de France, &c.
RECUEIL d'Assortimens universels & complets de toutes sortes de Cartes, tant générales que particulieres, d'Astronomie, Géographie, Hydrographie, Cosmographie & Topographie, des meilleurs Auteurs.
GLOBES CÉLESTES & Terrestres, Spheres de Copernic & de Ptolémée, de toutes grandeurs, proportionnés aux Cabinets & Bibliothéques, & artistement montés; lesquels se vendent aussi en feuilles pour ceux qui désirent les monter eux-mêmes ou les faire monter à leur goût. Planisphères Célestes pour connoître l'état du Ciel. Instrumens de Mathématiques, Etuis garnis de toute façon, travaillés avec soin, portés à toute la perfection dont ils sont susceptibles, & généralement tout ce qui concerne le Génie.
Le Sieur DESNOS procurera aux Amateurs qui s'adresseront à lui, non-seulement la connoissance de tout ce qui paroît de nouveau en ce genre de Sciences, mais encore la facilité de l'acquisition, par un prix modique.

A PARIS,
Rue Saint Jacques, à l'Enseigne du Globe & de la Sphere.

M. DCC. LXV.

Quarto. 16pp; marbled paper backstrip.

CATALOGUE OF LOUIS-CHARLES DESNOS

Catalogue des ouverages, tant anciens que modernes, du fonds du Sr. Desnos, Ingenieur-Geographe pour les Globes & Spheres.

Author
DESNOS, [Louis-Charles]

Publication date
1765.

Publisher
[Louis-Charles] Desnos, Rue Saint Jacques, a l'Enseigne. Du Globe & de la Sphere,

Publication place
Paris,

Physical description
Quarto. 16pp; marbled paper backstrip.

Dimensions
270 by 211mm. (10.75 by 8.25 inches).

Notes
Largely thanks to the influence of Nicolas Sanson, the eighteenth century saw the centre of European cartography transfer from Amsterdam to Paris. Another important contributor to this significant shift, however, was Louis Charles Desnos, a map-publisher and instrument-maker who, despite living and working in Paris, was appointed as Royal Globemaker to Charles VII, King of

Denmark. In addition to his royal globes, Desnos commissioned and sold maps, atlases, prints, screens, writing materials, and books. He acquired inventory from the Jaillot family and Nicolas de Fer, and worked extensively with other cartographers, particularly with Giovanni Rizzi-Zannoni, Claude Buy de Mornas, and Louis Brion de la Tour; sometimes fairly, sometimes in a rather underhand way.

There is no doubt that Desnos was a sharp businessman, with an eye for opportunity. As early as 1750, Desnos announced plans to publish a fifteen-map historical geography of France illustrated with maps by Antonio Rizzi-Zannoni, which did not come to fruition, even though he seems to have later claimed that it had. If that had been true, then it would have been the earliest such atlas of France. In 1761, Desnos entered into a contract with Claude Buy de Mornas, to produce an 'Atlas méthodique et élémentaire de Géographie et d'Histoire' (1761). Desnos's investment in the 'Atlas…' was three times the amount of Mornas's. However, when Mornas was slow to provide the promised text for the work, Desnos pursued him for damages against having jeopardized the success of the venture and Desnos's investment.

For his next big venture, Desnos decided to cut a few corners, and in 1763, the shoe was on the other foot, when Jean Lattre pursued Desnos for allegedly plagiarizing his 'Atlas maritime des Cotes de France' (1762), reissuing it with maps by Rizzi-Zannoni. Desnos, at this point, was unphased by controversy, and compounded insult with injury by printing a version of Mme. Lattre's map, 'Carte Helio-Seleno-Geographique,..' (1762), showing the visibility of a solar eclipse, due to occur on April 1, 1764, from different places in Europe. The Gendarmerie was summoned and seized an example of the Lattres' map on Desnos's premises. Desnos blamed Rizzi-Zannoni for everything, which was easy because Rizzi-Zannoni had in fact worked for and been paid for map designs by Lattre, without ever completing them. On the assumption that all publicity is good publicity, perhaps, Desnos used the controversy to advertise his version of the map, claiming in the 'Journal de Trevoux', that Lattre's accusations were defamatory, and offering his version of the map at less than half Lattre's price.

Nevertheless, Desnos went some way to learning his lesson, and subsequent atlases acknowledged as well as capitalized on the success of others,… and were advertised as being useful for understanding well-known, best-selling histories. Desnos's catalogue for 1765, of which the present document is an example, lists three newly compiled historical atlases of France: 'Atlas historique et geographique de la France ancienne et moderne', after Messrs. Velly and Villaret, and 'Tableau analytique…', both prepared by Rizzi-Zannoni; 'Atlas historique, geographique et chronologique de la France ancienne et moderne', to complement Henault's work, 'Abrege de l'histoire de France'; and another atlas to accompany Daniel and Mezerai's history of France.

The sixteen-page catalogue lists each title separately, with items including maps, atlases and globes, all in their first editions, and all priced. A notice on the title page reassures potential customers that "Mr Desnos will provide Amateurs who turn to him, not only with knowledge of all that appears new in the subject of Sciences, but also with the ease of acquisition, at a low price".

Bibliography

Provenance

Price:

Inventory reference: 17536

© Daniel Crouch Rare Books Ltd | 2025