

State 3. Large folding engraved map on six sheets,dissected in 40 sections and laid down on linen, with contemporary hand-colour in outline, trimmed with pale blue silk; folding into marbled paper ends and loosely inserted in contemporary red roan backed marbled paper chemise, gilt.

UNRECORDED EXAMPLE OF MELISH'S MAP OF PENNSYLVANIA

Map of Pennsylvania, Constructed from the County Surveys...Corrected and Improved to 1825

Author
MELISH, John

Publication date
1825.

Publisher
Benjamin Tanner,

Publication place
Philadelphia,

Physical description
State 3. Large folding engraved map on six sheets,dissected in 40 sections and laid down on linen, with contemporary hand-colour in outline, trimmed with pale blue silk; folding into marbled paper ends and loosely inserted in contemporary red roan backed marbled paper chemise, gilt.

Dimensions
920 by 1450mm. (36.25 by 57 inches).

Notes

Unrecorded example of state 3: with an additional imprint, not present on the 1822 editions of the map, found below the bottom border on the right: “Published by B. Tanner, Engraver. No. 74 South Eighth Street, Philadelphia”, without manuscript ink annotations in the upper left corner of the map as on the State 1a 1822 editions.

John Melish’s map of Pennsylvania is one of the earliest important large format maps of an individual American state. The state of Pennsylvania authorized it with an 1816 legislative act, and John Melish created it using county maps from a variety of surveys conducted between 1816 and 1820. He delivered it in March 1822.

As with his map of the United states, Melish meticulously compiled the best available information and regularly updated his map. After Melish’s death in December 1822, Philadelphia engraver Benjamin Tanner made no less than 6,447 corrections before publishing this updated version in 1825. Tanner took pains to list his many additions and improvements in a February 17, 1825, letter. In addition to Pennsylvania, it includes all of New Jersey and parts of Delaware and Maryland, although in less detail. Longitude is marked by using Washington, D.C. as the Prime Meridian.

Very rare on the market, the present example is the Babinski copy of the “unrecorded and very rare. state 3.” one of an estimated number of 64 copies published, and bearing the additional imprint “Published by B. Tanner, Engraver. No. 74 South Eighth Street, Philadelphia.”

With a large vignette depicting the Pennsylvania state seal.

Bibliography
Ristow, American Maps & Mapmakers, p446; Ristow, A la Carte pp 162-182; Schwartz & Ehrenberg pp 238-239, pl. 233; Wheat II, no 322, pp. 62-64.

Provenance
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1. Mark Babinski, his sale, Swann Galleries, 8th December, 2005, lot 74.

Price: £26000

Inventory reference: 12817

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