



A Map of the British Empire in America with the French and Spanish Settlements adjacent thereto by Hen. Popple.

Cartographer: Henry Popple

Place/Date: London /1733

Size: 20 x 19.5 inches/251 x 230 cm

Description: A gorgeous full original color example of Henry Popple's *Key Sheet*, which was sold separately and bound in with his 20-sheet map of North America, one of two most important general maps of North America issued during the 18th century. Henry Popple worked with the Board of Trade & Plantations in 1727, during a period when boundary disputes in the colonies began to accelerate the need for detailed maps. In 1730, the Board began requesting detailed maps of the entirety of the provinces and contiguous French and Spanish Dominions. Popple issued an announcement for the

map in 1731, but did not complete work until 1733. The map was not a commercial success and did not sell well until after William Henry Toms and Samuel Harding took over publication in 1739. With the outbreak of the *War of Jenkin's Ear*, the map saw its commercial successes soar. In 1746, the rights to the map passed to Willdey and Austen, who published it until Austen's death in 1750. This is the true first edition of Popple's *Key Sheet*, with no place names appearing between Havana and C.S. Antonio, as identified by Babinski. The map includes four views (New York Harbor, Québec, México City and Niagara Falls) and 17 Harbor Plans. The cartographic significance of the map is the subject matter of a number of books and articles. In short, it is the most important map of the American colonies to date.

The Popple map was used during the negotiations between the British and French over the boundaries of Nova Scotia in the early 1750s the French Commissioners referring to the map in their October 4, 1751 *Memorial* and the British Commissioners in their responding *Memorial* of January 23, 1753 (Babinski, Note 71). It was also used in the long-simmering dispute over the Guyana-Venezuela border which tested the *Monroe Doctrine* when Venezuela broke off diplomatic relations with Britain in 1887 and appealed to the United States for help. The case was decided in 1899 by a five-person Arbitration Tribunal (set up by the 1897 *Treaty of Washington* - only after U. S. President Grover Cleveland threatened a military intervention in compliance with the *Monroe Doctrine*) on which seated were two U. S. Supreme Court Justices, with argument for Venezuela presented to the Tribunal by former U. S. President.





