John Disturnell *Mapa de los Estados Unidos de Mejico*, engraving (hand colored), 76 x 105 cm. (New York: J. Disturnell, 1847). *The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries Special Collections*

Recognizing the growing interest in Texas following its annexation by the United States and the ongoing tensions with Mexico in 1845, New York publisher John Disturnell (1801-1877) bought the copper plates of the 1828 map of Mexico by White, Gallaher and White and reissued it beginning the next year with his own name on it. This 1847 edition, while actually the 7th edition, was the first of seven variants that year. The variations were so minor that negotiators were probably not aware that the “7th edition” from 1847 was attached to the U.S. treaty, while the “12th edition” bearing the same year was attached to the Mexican copy.

One of the most glaring errors of Disturnell’s maps and their predecessors was the distortion of the location of El Paso del Norte (today’s Juarez, Mexico). The maps show it miles north and east of its actual location, and, thus by the treaty, the boundary would run miles north of what the U.S. had thought they had agreed upon. The two countries appointed a joint boundary commission that spent the next several years properly surveying the boundary lines, during which time they corrected the errors.