



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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British Possessions in North America

Stock#: 95544
Map Maker: Anonymous / Arrowsmith
Date: 1804
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 16 x 10 inches
Price: \$ 495.00



Description:

A Fine Pre-Lewis & Clark Map of Canada and the Transmississippi West.

Scarce map of Canada and the Transmississippi West, extending west to the Rocky Mountains and the MacKenzie River.

The map is based upon Aaron Arrowsmith's monumental 1804 map of North America, the same map which Lewis & Clark carried with them on their expedition to the Pacific Ocean.

Perhaps the most interesting feature is the depiction of the headwaters of the Missouri River. Here, the map incorporates the reports of Peter Fidler for the Hudson's Bay Company, by including a series of possible river courses to the west, leading to (and prospectively through) the Rocky Mountains. It was this section of the map that provided the best depiction of the prospect of a water route or portage through the Rocky Mountains and to the Pacific.

It was this information derived from Peter Fidler and incorporated by Arrowsmith, along with reports from local Indians encountered on the expedition, which Lewis & Clark relied in choosing their path to the Rocky Mountains.

The map includes additional annotations of note, including a reference to the Indian report that once the Rocky Mountains were crossed, it was an 8 day trip to the Pacific and the reference to the Pearl Shell Lake on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains in the general vicinity of Denver, Colorado.

The details in Canada are also quite exceptional for such a small map, making use of the reports of Hearne, MacKenzie, and the Hudson Bay Company.



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Russian factories are noted on the Alaskan coastline, with extensive Indian tribal information in the interior.

Excellent detail on the Pacific Coast, including a reference to the mythical "Riv. Oregon".

We have been unable to determine the source of the map, but it is quite similar to a map published by Longman, Hurst, Rees and Orme, which credits Arrowsmith.

Detailed Condition: