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South Australia Shewing The Division Into Counties of the Settled Portions of the Province from Surveys of Captn. Frome Rl. Engrs. Survr. Genl. of the Colony 1842

Stock#: 89251
Map Maker: Arrowsmith
Date: 1843
Place: London
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG
Size: 19.5 x 24 inches
Price: \$ 1,600.00



Description:

Shedding Light on South Australia for Parliament

Important early map of the first counties in South Australia, published by John Arrowsmith. This edition of the map was included in a dossier for Parliament on the state of the region.

This is the first state of the map, but with additional labels indicating that it was part of a print-run prepared for Her Majesty's Stationary Office for presentation to the Houses of Parliament in 1843. This state has the addition of "Papers Relative to South Australia" below the neatline, as well as the name of the printers, Clowes and Son.

The map shows the Eyre Peninsula (here labeled as Flinders) and the area around the Spencer Gulf, the Gulf of St. Vincent, and Encounter Bay, including Kangaroo Island. A highlight of the map are the early counties which cluster around Adelaide: Flinders, Stanley, Gawler, Light, Eyre, Adelaide, Sturt,



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Hindmarsh and Russell.

The map includes many notes about the abundance of water, the presence or possibility of vegetation, and local geographic features.

This map includes the tracks of Thomas Burr in 1840, John Eyre in 1839 and 1840, of Captain Charles Edward Frome in 1842. The latter is also mentioned in the title block of the map for his role as Surveyor General of the colony.

The Kapunda Copper Mine is not shown on the map, as it had yet to be established. However, the ore had been found recently, in 1842, by Charles Bagot and Francis Dutton.

Exploration of Southern Australia to 1820

Indigenous peoples have lived in Australia for 40,000 years. As was common with maps and charts of the nineteenth (and earlier) centuries, their presence is not recognized here.

The first Europeans to contact southern Australia were the Dutch. En route to the East Indies, many Dutch traders decided to brave the fierce winds of the Roarin' Forties (latitude) to speed their journey. However, this gamble sometimes resulted in being blown too far, onto an unknown (to Europeans) shore. While these first encounters, with the west coast, were largely accidental, later voyages sought to see what the continent had to offer.

The first European associated with southern Australia was Pieter Nuyts. Nuyts was an employee of the Dutch East India Company (VOC). In the *Gulden Seepaert* (*Golden Seahorse*), and captained by Francois Thijssen, Nuyts sailed nearly 800 nautical miles along the southern coast in 1627, reaching present-day Ceduna. As the highest-ranking officer on board, the land was named for him, *Land van Pieter Nuyts*.

By the end of the seventeenth century, the VOC had largely abandoned the idea of a colony or outpost in Australia. By the turn of the eighteenth century, in contrast, all of Australia was hotly contested by both France and Britain; the latter had already established their penal colony in eastern Australia. In 1801, the French ships *Géographe* and *Naturaliste*, under the command of Nicolas Baudin and Emmanuel Hamelin, surveyed much of the coastline.

Louis-Claude de Freycinet was the main hydrographer on the Baudin voyage who oversaw the publication of its account and atlas. Freycinet and the Baudin expedition were charting Western Australia at the same time a British expedition, under the command of Matthew Flinders (namesake of the one of the counties),



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was doing the same; Flinders' would eventually complete the first circumnavigation of Australia. He was detained by the French, however, and delayed in publishing his findings. Louis de Freycinet returned in command of his own expedition in 1818.

The early exploration and settlement of South Australia

Inland exploration of South Australia began in earnest only two decades prior to this map's production. In 1819, a sealing captain named George Sutherland crossed Kangaroo Island on foot. Ten years later, from 1828-30, Charles Sturt (namesake of one of the counties seen here) traveled upriver on several voyages, locating the Darling and following the River Murray to its mouth. The surrounding area was fertile and led many to see South Australia as a viable new colony.

South Australia was officially proclaimed a colony in 1836, with the new planned settlement of Adelaide as its capital. Its location was decided thanks to a route from the Murray to Gulf St. Vincent, which was blazed by Collet Barker in 1831. Barker would be the first Surveyor General of South Australia. From 1836 to 1844, other explorers sought more information about the inland areas, including Johann Menge, who conducted geological investigations, and Robert Cock, who led several trips to find resources. Joseph Hawdon and Charles Bonney traced the Murray corridor in 1838; Bonney continued on the Coorong the following year.

In 1839, Charles Edward Frome was appointed Surveyor General of South Australia. Frome was a trained soldier who served in the Royal Engineers. He proved adept at surveying and wrote a text on the subject that ran to four editions. Frome suggested that Thomas Burr be named his Deputy.

Burr traveled to Australia, arriving in December 1839 to find that Governor George Gawler (another namesake of one of the counties) had also appointed a Deputy, B. T. Finniss. Perhaps to prove himself, Burr threw himself into the work, embarking on an expedition with Gawler and John Hill to be the first Europeans to probe the east coast of the Eyre Peninsula. Hill and Burr then charted the northern Yorke Peninsula. He led several later expeditions as well.

Edward John Eyre (namesake of another county) led an expedition in 1839 to Mount Arden and the Flinders Ranges. Via Adelaide and Port Lincoln, he sought an overland route westward over the Eyre Peninsula. Then, in 1840, he led the first official expedition to uncover the secrets of the interior, although he was thwarted by Lake Torrens, which Eyre named.

Frome continued to survey the lands that the commissioners of South Australia had sold, as settlers wanted to start their farms and ranches. These surveys form the base of this map. He also led several



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expeditions, including the 1842 foray seen here and an 1843 venture that named Lake Frome.

These trips found that, only a little way into the interior, the climate turned arid and the land dry. Combined with the later 1844 expedition of George Grey these sorties delimited the fertile "island" of South Australia.

States of the map

The map was first issued in 1843 without the additional notes under the neatline. This is a Parliamentary example printed for Her Majesty's Stationary Office, also in 1843.

The "Arrowsmith's Australian Maps" project notes that the map was reprinted, with additions, in 1846 and 1858.

The map is rare outside of Britain and Australia. The project lists examples in the State Libraries of New South Wales, South Australia, and Victoria, as well as the Royal Geographical Society in London.

Detailed Condition:

Minor toning along folds. Narrow margins, with minor loss.