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(Peninsular War) Map of the Roads of Portugal

Stock#: 93948
Map Maker: Arrowsmith
Date: 1811
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 52 x 23 inches



Price: \$ 1,800.00

Description:

Map of the Roads of Portugal is a historically significant cartographic work published in London on January 1, 1811, by Aaron Arrowsmith, the Hydrographer to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, located in Soho Square. Designed to assist military movements during the Peninsular War, this map provides a detailed depiction of the road network in Portugal, aiding the navigation of Portuguese and French troops across the diverse terrain of the country.

Created in the early stages of the Peninsular War, which commenced in 1807 with the invasion of Portugal by a combined French Imperial and Spanish force, this map played a crucial role in facilitating the movement and administration of troops in a country subjected to conflict. The occupation of Lisbon by French troops in November 1807 marked a turning point in the war, making the accurate mapping and understanding of Portuguese roads essential for French, Spanish, Portuguese, and British forces.

Arrowsmith based his map on the 1808 Lisbon-published [*Carta Militar das Principaes Estradas de Portugal*](#). Arrowsmith has translated the map from French and Portuguese into English and the Note thus reads:

*Figures on the Roads with an L. annexed are the number of Leagues from Town to Town.
Figures on.... D with an h. annexed are the hours a foot Courier is in Travelling.*

This map, like its Portuguese predecessor, sets itself apart with its inclusion of running hours for each subsection of road. This information was vital for military planners, offering insight into the speed at which troops could move across the country. Rather than focusing on rendering topography, the map prioritizes the practicalities of travel, providing valuable data for strategic decision-making.

The *Map of the Roads of Portugal* represents a remarkable cartographic piece from the Peninsular War



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era, shedding light on the strategic importance of accurate mapping during times of conflict. Its ability to convey information about travel times and its unique departure from topographical representation make it an intriguing artifact that provides valuable insight into the military operations and dynamics of the time.

A second edition was issued in 1812.

Detailed Condition:

Dissected and mounted on linen. Housed in blue paper slipcase.