



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

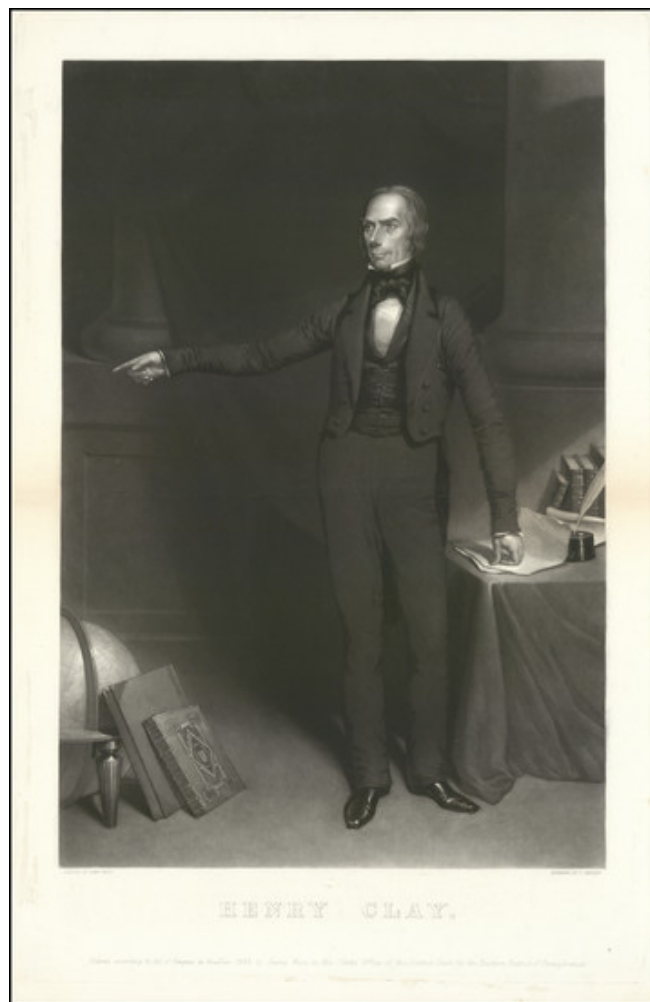
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Henry Clay

Stock#: 96174
Map Maker: Wise
Date: 1844
Place: Philadelphia
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 11.5 x 17 inches
Price: \$ 475.00



Description:

The Great Pacificator

This fine mezzotint engraving by James Wise presents a full-length portrait of Henry Clay, standing with his left arm extended outward and his right resting on a table draped with a cloth. The table also holds what appears to be writing implements and papers, with a terrestrial globe to one side and books stacked nearby, indicating his intellectual and global interests.

Clay is dressed formally, in a dark tailcoat, waistcoat, and trousers, with a white shirt and black bow tie, typical of the mid-19th-century fashion for a man of his standing. Behind him, the presence of a classical



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Henry Clay

column contributes to the dignified atmosphere of the portrait.

The portrait is set in a serene, undefined space that suggests a reflective environment, possibly alluding to Clay's home near Ashland. This depiction of Clay was issued during his 1844 presidential campaign, his third and last attempt at the presidency, which culminated in a loss to James K. Polk amid debates over territory and slavery.

James Wise, active during the mid-19th century, worked across several states and is known for his portraiture. The mezzotint technique used here is known for its soft gradations of light and shadow, adding depth to the portrait.

Overall, the portrait conveys a sense of Clay's stature as a statesman with a composed and controlled demeanor, fitting for a man known as "The Great Pacificator" for his efforts in political compromise.

Detailed Condition: