



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

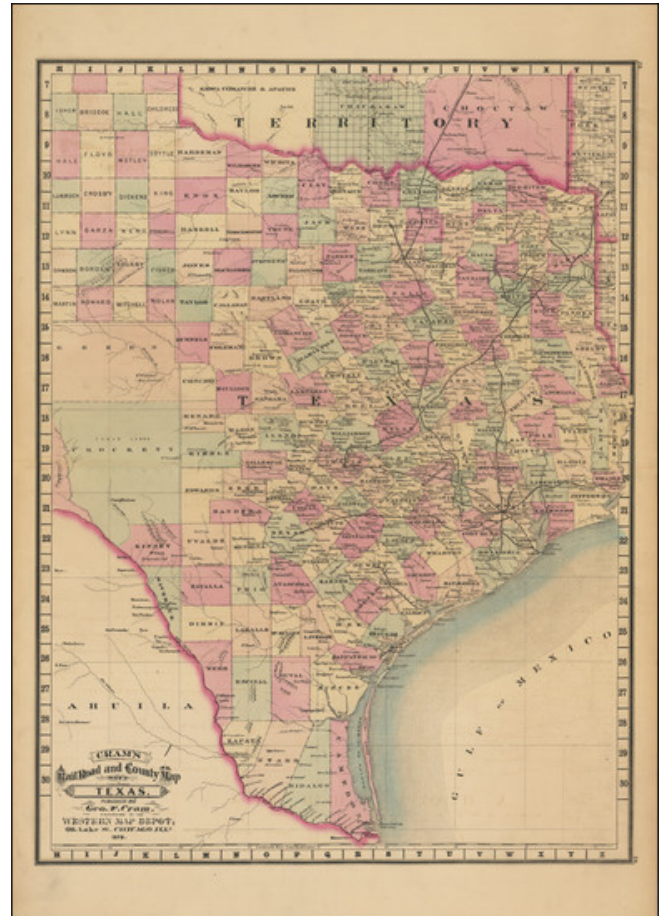
(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

**Cram's Rail Road & Township Map of Texas. Published By George F. Cram, Proprietor of
the Western Map Depot . . . 1878.**

Stock#: 101166
Map Maker: Cram

Date: 1879
Place: Chicago
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 21 x 28.5 inches

Price: \$ 2,800.00



Description:

Striking example of *Cram's Railroad & Township Map of Texas*, one of the rarest of the earliest large format maps to illustrate the railroad system in Texas.

First published in 1875, the map was originally issued in a taller format, with the title [Cram's New Rail Road & County Map of Texas](#), which was first issued in 1875 and again in 1876.

Cram's map of Texas went through several variant states and titles between 1875 and 1878, making the history of the map somewhat difficult to ascertain, except upon closer inspection. There are at least 3 early states of the map. The earliest we have identified, bearing the same title, was issued in 1875. The title is in the Gulf of Mexico and the map is narrower than the present map but would appear to be the



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same plate. A second state, which is wider and encompasses all of Indian Territory, was issued in both atlas and pocket map format in 1876 under the title *Cram's New Rail Road & County Map of Texas. Showing Latest Government Surveys &c &c.* The title remains in the Gulf of Mexico.

This 1878 state adds an index system at the top, bottom, and sides. It includes significantly more towns, railroads, and other details than the 1876 map.

Comparing the two, the 1878 is the same width as the 1876 map, but only includes a portion of Indian Territory. The title has been moved into Cahahuila and a number of Western Counties have been added, among other noteworthy changes. However, the plate would appear to be almost certainly the same plate as the 1876 map and apparently the 1875 as well. The map would be re-issued 1879 with text on the verso, including census information by county.

Cram's map of Texas is constructed on a very large scale and shows towns, counties, railroads, proposed railroads, stations and many other early features. The massive Territory of Young and Territory of Bexar have been replaced by oversized Green and Crockett Counties and a number of smaller counties.

It has been opined by some commentators that the map was possibly inspired by E. H. Ross (*Ross' New Connected County & Railroad Map of Texas and Indian Territory*, issues in 1871, 1872, and 1873).

Rarity

This is the first example of the 1878 we have offered for sale (1992-2024).

Detailed Condition:

Lithograph with hand-applied color on 19th century wove paper. Archivaly backed with a thin layer of tissue for support.