



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

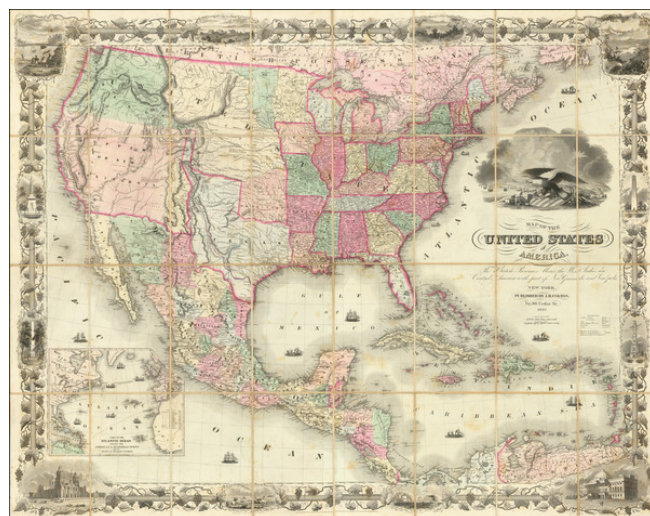
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[First Gold Rush Edition!] Colton's Map of the United States of America, The British Provinces, Mexico, The West Indies and Central America . . . 1849

Stock#: 101951
Map Maker: Colton
Date: 1849
Place: New York
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 40 x 33 inches
Price: \$ 7,500.00



Description:

First State of Colton's Map of the United States issued following the Discovery of Gold in California

Rare first state of John Hutchins Colton's 1849 two-sheet Map of the United States, one of the earliest printed maps to include the gold discoveries in California which launched the California Gold Rush.

In 1849, J.H. Colton published 3 separately issued maps of the United States, the standard 1-sheet "pocket map edition," the 4-sheet "wall map" edition and this very rare 2-sheet version, which was available either in sheets or dissected and laid on linen (as offered here). The three maps offered one of the most up to date and comprehensive views of the United States and most notably, the western portion of the United States, including those areas recently annexed by the United States following the conclusion of the Mexican War in 1846.

The present map shows a massive California, Oregon Territory, Texas and Nebraska, predating the first round of smaller territories, which would include New Mexico, Utah, Washington and Kansas Territories, each formed between 1850 and 1855. The elaborate grapevine borders include 12 vignettes of various places of interest, including Willamette Falls in Oregon, the Capitol Building, an incomplete Washington Monument, Astoria Oregon, Mexicans catching cattle, and the Valley of Connecticut from Roanoke.

Of particular note is the area labeled Gold Region, above "los Americanos" River and New Helvetia on the Sacramento River. This modest mention of the recently discovered gold regions in California would



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become of the earliest references to the gold discoveries on a commercially published map.

The present example is the first of two recorded 1849 editions, which would quickly be replaced by a more elaborate treatment of the gold regions in the second state. As noted in Streeter, the early edition does not yet show 'El Dorado or Gold Region' along the Feather River and pre-dates the addition of the 'Table of Distances,' at the bottom of the map next to the inset of the Atlantic Ocean. This example also pre-dates the inclusion of Fremont's route along the Humboldt River and other revisions in California.

To view the Rumsey-Streeter example of the second edition, [click here](#).

Rarity

The map is very rare on the market. This is the second example we have offered for sale in over 30 years (1992-2024).

Detailed Condition:

Segmented and laid on linen, as issued.