



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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[World Atlas] Maps of The Society For The Diffusion of Useful Knowledge. A New Editio, Corrected to The Present Time

Stock#: 102207
Map Maker: SDUK
Date: 1843 - 1846
Place: London
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG
Size: 14 x 17 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine example of the second edition of the maps of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge.

This atlas is in two volumes and includes 167 maps (some of which combine to form multi-sheet maps) of every region around the world. Included are 18 maps of the world, 21 of North America, 7 of South America, 31 of Asia, 13 of Africa, 68 of Europe, 4 of Australia and New Zealand, 4 of the oceans, and a chart of the rivers of the world. Also included are 3 plans of London, London & Environs and Paris (not called for in the index) The plans of London and Paris are two-sheet plans.

The onset of the nineteenth century witnessed significant changes in the map publishing sector, marked by an escalation in market demand and innovation. This period saw a departure from the previously narrow, affluent-targeted map market, towards broader public engagement, propelled by increased literacy and interest in global exploration and colonial territories.

In 1828, the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge (SDUK) was established in London by Lord Brougham and a collective of intellectuals. This initiative was rooted in the Utilitarian belief that 'Knowledge is Power,' aimed at educating the expanding middle and working classes. The SDUK's efforts were part of a wider movement to make learning accessible to a broader audience.

Among its various educational pursuits, the SDUK is noted for its extensive series of maps. These maps were designed to be both informative and affordable, thereby extending their reach beyond the traditional, wealthier clientele. Published by numerous engravers and printers, these maps covered a diverse range of topics and regions, reflecting the society's commitment to dispersing a wide spectrum of knowledge.



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The importance of the SDUK maps lies in their role in the broader narrative of educational and cartographic evolution. They symbolize an era of transition, where geographical knowledge became more universally accessible, aligning with the era's democratizing trends in education and information dissemination.

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Detailed Condition:

Modern Green Quarter leather over original red cloth-covered boards. Volume 1: 81 maps, plus 2 city plans (London and Environs of London). Volume 2: 86 maps, plus 1 city plan (Paris).