



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
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(Mexican-Aztec Paintings) [Chapultepec and Coyotepec] Mexican Painting. 3738. Codex Vaticanus, page 130, Aglio 2 Vol.

Stock#: 102306
Map Maker: Shippard
Date: 1834 circa
Place: London
Color: Pen & Ink with Wash Color
Condition: VG
Size: 10.5 x 15 inches
Price: \$ 3,500.00



Description:

Pre-Conquest Histories: Chapultepec - Coyotepec

An early 19th-century watercolor that depicts historical events in the Valley of Mexico during the 15th-century before the arrival Hernan Cortes.

The central motif in the top section of the watercolor clearly depicts the glyph for Chapultepec, consisting of a grasshopper (chapulin) on a large hill (tepetl). Also shown are two human figures swimming in flowing waters integral to the glyph. Four framed Aztec date symbols record the timeframe for the events shown. The lower half of the watercolor relates a different perhaps related history, with two of its own date symbols. Here we see a glyph for Coyotepec appearing in the lower left corner, among several other figure-based glyphs, some of which represent deities.



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The present watercolor is a faithful copy by Capt. William H. Shippard of plates 129 and 130 in vol. 2 of Lord Kingsborough's *Antiquities of Mexico* (1831), a color lithograph by Agostino Aglio. Edward King (Lord Kingsborough) was an Irish aristocrat and antiquarian who sought to gather evidence to support his belief that the indigenous peoples of America were descendants of one of the Lost Tribes of Israel. He is remembered today for publishing the monumental, illustrated work *Antiquities of Mexico*, which sought to present complete facsimiles of numerous important Aztec codices held in various European libraries. The project bankrupted Kingsborough and contributed to his early death through his contracting of typhus while in debtor's prison.

Codex Vaticanus A (3738), also known as the Codex Rios, is a Mexican codex that was created between 1570 and 1589. Held in the Vatican Library, its 101 pages comprise various sections, covering cosmological, mythological, and ethnographical topics. It is also known as Codex Rios and is understood to be an augmentation of a Spanish colonial-era manuscript, Codex Telleriano-Remensis, that is partially attributed to Pedro de los Ríos, a Dominican friar who worked in central Mexico between 1547 and 1562. The codex itself was likely written and drawn in Italy after 1566.

The Codex Rios as a whole is focused on the Tolteca-Chichimeca culture of the Tehuacan Valley in modern-day Puebla and Oaxaca.

It can be divided into seven sections:

1. Cosmological and mythological traditions with emphasis on the four epochs.
2. An almanac, or tonalamatl, for the 260-day divinatory year common in Mesoamerica.
3. Calendar tables for the years 1558 through 1619, without drawings.
4. An 18-month festival calendar, with drawings of the gods of each period.
5. Ritual customs, with portraits of Indians.
6. Pictorial chronicles for the years 1195-1549 beginning with the migration from Chicomaztoc and covering later events in the Valley of Mexico.
7. Glyphs for the years 1556 through 1562, without text or additional drawings.

The present watercolor is most likely based on a page from the 6th section of pictorial chronicles.

Detailed Condition:

Ink and watercolor. Quite clean and nice. Brilliant color. Professionally matted.