



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## (Mexican-Aztec Artwork) [Original pencil tracing of Aztec Calendar]

**Stock#:** 102327  
**Map Maker:** Shippard  
**Date:** 1844  
**Place:** London  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** Good  
**Size:** 12 x 11.5 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

#### *Aztec Calendar Stone*

An early 19th-century pencil tracing of the iconic Aztec Calendar stone, by Capt. William H. Shippard. This famous object, also known as the Sun Stone (Piedra del Sol) or the Stone of the Five Eras, was extracted from the ground in 1790 near the location of the Aztec Templo Mayor in Mexico City. The Sun Stone itself measures 3.5 meters in diameter and is nearly a meter thick. It is currently the centerpiece of the Museo Nacional de Antropología in Mexico City.

The calendar stone is essential for understanding the importance of astronomy and calendar systems in Aztec society, reflecting their sophisticated knowledge of these fields. There are several interpretations of the carved symbols, which record Mexica (Aztec) cosmogony and chronology. The deity at centre may be the Sun god, surrounded by four previous eras (boxes) and concentric circles of date glyphs.

According to a pencil note on the sheet itself, this tracing was made by Shippard in the British Museum from a copy of Alexander von Humboldt's published work, *Atlas Pittoresque du voyage: Vues des Cordillères* (Paris 1810), perhaps as preparation for a watercolor.

*Calendrier Mexicain*



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*See De Humboldt...*

*De Humboldt, Atlas pittoresque, British Museum, 10 June 1844*

**Detailed Condition:**

Pencil drawing on tracing paper. A couple tears in the margins, image not affected. Dated in pencil by Shippard: "British Museum, 10 June 1844."