



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard  
La Jolla, CA 92037

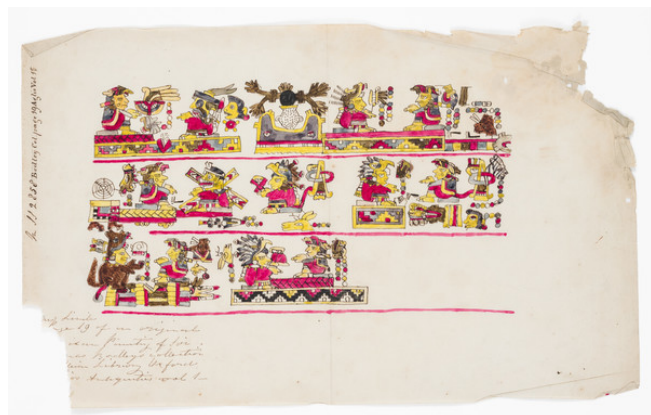
[www.raremaps.com](http://www.raremaps.com)

(858) 551-8500  
[blr@raremaps.com](mailto:blr@raremaps.com)

**(Mexican-Aztec Paintings) Facsimile, page 19 of an original [Mex]ican painting of Sir Thomas Bodley's collection [in the Bod]leian Library, Oxford, [Agl]io's Antiquities, vol.**

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**Stock#:** 102328  
**Map Maker:** Shippard  
**Date:** 1834 circa  
**Place:** London  
**Color:** Pen & Ink with Wash Color  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 16.3 x 10 inches  
**Price:** \$ 2,400.00



## Description:

An original watercolor by Captain William H. Shippard, after a page from the Codex Bodley.

Shippard's caption title on the present watercolor cites Agostino Aglio, suggesting that he made this copy from Lord Kingsborough's *Mexican Antiquities*.

*Mss 2858 Bodley Col. page 19 Aglio Vol. 1st.*

## The Codex Bodley

The Codex Bodley is a vital artifact for understanding the Mixtec culture, particularly in regard to the intricate family relationships and dynastic histories of the Mixteca Alta region. Its creation date is uncertain but believed to be prior to the Spanish conquest of Mexico in 1521. The manuscript's journey to the Bodleian Library at Oxford, where it joined the collection in the early 17th century, is shrouded in mystery, with suggestions that it may have once belonged to Bishop Heronymous Osorius of Faro, Portugal, and possibly came into the possession of the library through looting by Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex, subsequently gifted to Thomas Bodley.

Crafted from deerskin and extending to 6.7 meters (22 feet) when unfolded, the Codex Bodley is an accordion-folded document, its pages coated with white paint and divided by red bands into sections for the inscription of its narratives. Over time, the codex's condition has deteriorated, with parts of its pictography fading or missing. Despite this, it remains an indispensable resource for studying the social structures, alliances, and interactions within and between the Mixtec communities, particularly those



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centered around the dynasties of Tilantongo and Tiaxiaco in what is now Oaxaca, Mexico.

The Codex Bodley's narratives focus on these dynasties, detailing their genealogies and significant events such as the War of Heaven and the stories related to Eight Deer, a pivotal figure linking the Tilantongo dynasty to other high-ranking Mixtec lineages. The document contrasts the origins and destinies of competing families, offering unique insights into the cultural and political landscapes of pre-conquest Mesoamerica. Its historical and academic significance is further highlighted by archaeological interpretations, such as those by Alfonso Caso, who elucidated the lineage of Tilantongo's royal family and its implications for understanding regional power dynamics.

**Detailed Condition:**

Pen and ink drawing with watercolor. Sheet torn in upper right corner and lower left corner, with minor paper loss affecting a few words of manuscript caption, but image unaffected. Colors vivid and overall condition is otherwise very good.