



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

(Klondike Board Game Map) Off To Klondike

Stock#: 104137
Map Maker: J. Jaques & Sons
Date: 1897 circa
Place: London
Color: Color
Condition: VG
Size: 28.5 x 15.5 inches
Price: \$ 875.00



Description:

Klondike Board Game Map -- Alaskan Gold Fever in the UK

This rare circa 1897 board game, "Off to Klondike," reflects the global fascination sparked by the Klondike Gold Rush and the discovery of gold in the Yukon Territory in 1896. The color-printed game board incorporates a map and features vivid illustrations that capture the perilous journey prospectors faced in their quest for gold.

Produced by J. Jaques & Son, one of England's oldest makers of games and sports equipment, the game board illustrates the global reach of Alaskan Gold Fever.

The central path of the game snakes its way across the board, representing the arduous trek from various starting points to the coveted goldfields. The Yukon River is prominently shown on the board. The game outlines routes by steamer and train which begin at different points, including Victoria ("outward bound only"), where players "pay" for their passage. From these starting places the journey continues through the country, passing St. Michael's Island, Dawson City and the like. Each segment of the path is marked with numbers and events that reflect the historical challenges faced by prospectors. Notably, the "Homeward Bound" route, either by Forty Mile to Circle City or via Chilkoot Pass, is also incorporated into the game board map.

Key points on the board include:

- **St. Michael's Island:** Players pay to land or embark, reflecting the actual costs incurred during the journey by gold seekers.
- **Chilkoot Pass Route ("Can be used on Homeward Journey Only):** A notorious section known for its difficulty, where players encounter various obstacles such as starvation risk, robbers and the



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

(Klondike Board Game Map) Off To Klondike

need to build boats.

- **Fort Yukon and Circle City:** Locations that serve as checkpoints, with instructions for players to wait or pay additional costs.

Illustrations on the board depict prospectors in rugged attire wielding pickaxes under harsh conditions, highlighting the adventurous spirit of the gold seekers. Other scenes include a steamship and a locomotive, symbolizing the modes of transportation critical to reaching the goldfields.

The game involved a combination of dice rolls and strategic decisions, with players advancing along the path based on chance and the cards or instructions they draw. The element of luck inherent in the game mirrors the real-life uncertainties of gold prospecting, where success depended heavily on fortune.

Published by J. Jaques & Son in London, this game stands as a brilliant visual artifact reflecting the widespread allure of the Klondike Gold Rush and offers insight into contemporary perceptions of adventure and fortune-seeking. The game's historical and cultural significance is enhanced by its detailed representation of the period's challenges and the romanticized view of the gold rush era.

A wonderful Klondike item which contributes to an understanding of the social and cultural impact of the Klondike Gold Rush.

Rarity

Very rare. Not in OCLC, which does, however, list other Klondike-themed board games, including:

- *From Boston to Klondike* by A.M. Robinson
- *Going to Klondike? An Amusing and Instructive Game*
- *Horsman's game of Klondike : a game of surprises and divers dangers...* by Maraquita Bangs

Detailed Condition:

Board game. Thick folding board, as issued, one side covered in publisher's brown cloth, as issued, stamped in blind and with a bright gilt title vignette in shape of a gold nugget on main outer panel. Chromolithograph pictorial map board game on other side of board. A bit of dust soiling to map side. Some minor edge wear to board. Overall bright and very good.