



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

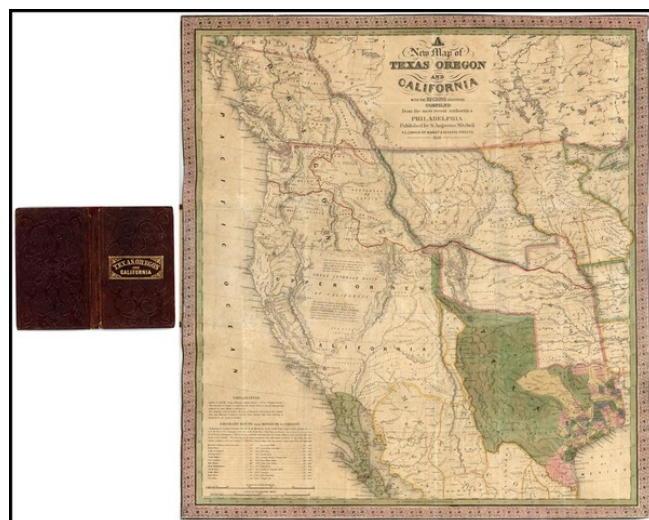
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A New Map of Texas, Oregon and California with the Regions adjoining Compiled from the most recent authorities...1846 [Rare Variant edition!]

Stock#: 11429
Map Maker: Mitchell
Date: 1846
Place: Philadelphia
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 20 x 20 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare edition of Mitchell's seminal map of Texas and the West, bound into original brown 16mo leather covers with text entitled "Geographical Description of The State of Texas . . ." published by Thomas Cowperthwait & Company in 1846, which consists of 62 pages and several woodcut illustrations.

The region covered by the map was of particular interest in 1846 because of two recent and related events. In 1845, Texas was admitted into the Union, which prompted Mexico to invade Texas in 1846, thus precipitating the U.S.-Mexican war. General curiosity about the new State of Texas and interest in the war with Mexico led to Mitchell's timely map becoming quite popular. As stated in the "Accompaniment to Mitchell's New Map of Texas, Oregon and California...", the most common source of this map, Mitchell used the latest and best sources for the map, including Arrowsmith's 1841 map of Texas, Fremont's and Emory's maps of their explorations in the region, data from the Lewis & Clark expedition, Nicollet's map of the region between the Mississippi and the Missouri, Wilkes map of Oregon.

The map shows Texas claims to the Upper Rio Grande in present day New Mexico. These claims were eventually given up as part of the Great Compromise of 1850, in exchange for the U.S. Federal Government's assumption of Texas' public debt. This example is bound into "Geographical Description of The State of Texas; Also, of that Part of The West Coast of North America, Which Includes Oregon, and Upper California, With Maps." The map's appearance with the "Geographical Description" is unrecorded, as normally, two small maps on a single sheet were appeared in this very rare guide. As noted by Rumsey, the "Geographical Description" is a rare guide and map (actually two maps on one sheet) that is a "cousin"



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of Mitchell's "Accompaniment to Mitchell's New Map of Texas, Oregon and California with The Regions Adjoining" also issued in 1846.

The two full color maps which normally appeared in the work are titled "Map of That Part of the West Coast of North America Comprising Oregon and Upper California" (10 x 8 inches) and "Map of the State of Texas With Portions of the Adjoining Regions" (10 x 8 inches) both printed on one sheet. These maps are earlier states of similar maps with slightly different titles that appear in Mitchell's School Atlas of 1846, maps #13 and #15, published by Thomas, Cowperthwait & Co. The maps in the school atlas were copyrighted by Mitchell. Rumsey presumed that Thomas, Cowperthwait issued the Geographical Description to compete with Mitchell's guide, yet somehow had Mitchell's cooperation in using the maps and the covers. Rumsey notes that the Geographical Description is much rarer than Mitchell's guide and sold for two and one half times more at the Streeter sale.

Our copy of the Geographical Description is the only known example to include Mitchell's larger map of Texas, Oregon & Upper California, rather than the normal 2 maps on a single sheet. For details on the Geographical Description, see Streeter 3325; Howes M688 (not in Cowan, Graff, Eberstadt, Decker, Sabin, Wheat, Wagner Camp). As with the Streeter copy, the tables apparently referenced by Smith (3497) are not present, apparently making this the first edition according to Streeter. Minor toning to the map and minor repaired tear where the map has been rejoined to the text. An apparently unique variant of one of the most influential maps in Western American History.

Detailed Condition: