



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
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**[Topographical Map of Central California together with a part of Nevada-Sheet IV]
[Extremely Rare & Important]**

Stock#: 13758
Map Maker: Hoffmann / Whitney
Date: 1872 (ca)
Place: New York
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 25 x 25 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Finely executed early regional map of Central California and part of Esmerelda County, Nevada.

The map extends from Owens Lake, Visalia and the Tule Swamp in the south to Aurora, Nevada, Bridgeport and Tuolumne County in the north. It includes excellent details in the Owens Valley (extending north to Owens Lake) and marvelous topographical detail throughout the map, include a fine early view of the topography of Mariposa County and Yosemite.

Sometime after 1870, J.D. Whitney commissioned a 4 sheet map of Central California on a Scale of 1:380,160, of which only 1 sheet was completed and the other 3 sheets partially completed.

Charles Hoffmann (for whom Mt. Hoffmann in California was named) was selected as the principal topographer for the project, which also included V. Wackenreuder, J.T. Gardner, A. Craven, and A.D. Wilson as his field assistants. While opinions differ on how much of the map was completed, Rumsey was able to locate only the lower two sheets of the map, while Wheat states that 3 sheets were present in the Farquar collection. (See #1238, footnote 43).

This Hoffman produced map is identified as the source information for the highly influential 1873



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California Geological Survey Map, making it safe to surmise that the map was issued in or before 1873, with various scholars attributing dates between 1870 and 1873. We offer here Sheet IV, which includes Mariposa, Tuolumne, and Mono Counties in the north (along with Esmerelda County Nevada) and extends to south to Owens Lake, Visalia and the Tule Swamp. And a significant portion of Inyo, Fresno and Tulare Counties (pre-dating the creation of several other counties in the region).

A native of Frankfurt am Main, Germany, Charles Hoffman was the topographer of J.D. Whitney's State Geological Survey (1860-1874). Hoffmann was one of the pioneers of modern topography and is responsible for the adoption of the contour line for the topographical atlas of the United States made by the USGS. Of the extant sheets, the southwest sheet is perhaps the most important, being the first comprehensive map of the High Sierra. The detail in the map is truly extraordinary and includes significantly more detail in the region and any map to date. The present example has never been folded.

An essential map for Yosemite and High Sierra collectors, produced by one of the great cartographic innovators of the the age of Western Surveys.

Detailed Condition: