



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Map to Illustrate the Route of Prince Maximilian of Wied in the Interior of North America from Boston to the Upper Missouri, etc, in 1832, 33, & 34

Stock#: 21908mb
Map Maker: Bodmer / Maximilian zu Wied
Date: 1839
Place: Koblenz
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG+
Size: 32 x 16 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine example of this remarkable map illustrating the account of the travels of Prince Alexander Phillip Maximilian of Wied's in the Plains and Rocky Mountain regions in the early 1830s.

This extraordinary map charts one of the greatest 19th Century journeys of American discovery, documenting the expedition of Prince Maximilian of Wied and the young Swiss Artis Karl Bodmer through the American West & Plains, between 1832 and 1834. Maximilian of Wied's account of his travels in the American West with fur trappers is one of the most important ethnographical works of the period. His description of the Indian Tribes along the Missouri River is of extraordinary importance occuring shortly before most of the Tribes of the region were decimated by a smallpox epidemic, which had nearly wiped out entirely populations in the Northern Plains by 1840. Moreover, the illustrations by Swiss Artist Karl Bodmer, who accompanied Prince Maximilian of Wied on his expedition, are generally regarded as the most important contemporary graphical depiction of the West in first half of the 19th Century.

This seminal travel account included a remarkable large scale, highly detailed map, which extends west to the Rocky Mountains and provides one of the best delineations of the Missouri River and Upper Mississippi River watersheds, along with the Great Lakes. The map includes large insets of the Missouri River and Mississippi River, along with a striking cartouche, showing an elaborate scene of Native Americans hunting buffalo on horseback.

The Prince's map can be tracked back to a copy of a map "of the course of the Missouri, by Lewis and Clark, on a large scale," given to the Prince by Major Benjamin O'Fallon. Major O'Fallon was William Clark's nephew, who had joined Clark on the frontier in 1808. Major O'Fallon would become one of the most prominent Indian Agents in the West and an important member of Stephen Long's Expedition to the Rocky Mountains in 1819-1820. O'Fallon was one of the most experienced and knowledgeable travellers in



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the region between the Missouri River and the Rocky Mountains in the 25 years following the Louisiana Purchase. The map and information he passed on to Prince Maximilian would have included significant improvements and updates available to him during his long service in the Transmississippi West.

The Prince is believed to have made significant additions and corections to the map provided to him by Major O'Fallon. These additions and corrections are almost certainly incorporated into the present map, which illustrates not only Maximilian's expedition but also Stephen Long's route of 1819-1820 along the Arkansas River to Colorado and the route taken by J.R. Bell, leading a detachment from the main Long Expedition on the same trip. Wheat refers to the map as "an excellent map" and "a beautiful piece of engraving."

The identity of the maker of Prince Maximilian's map has been a subject matter of some dispute. Early writers, including Carl Wheat, have written that Karl Bodmer himself was the author of the map. However, in recent times, the source of the map has been determined to be Lt. Col. (later Sir) William Thorn, who utilized H.S. Tanner's 1837 *Map of the United States of North America*, as his base map.

Prior to his travels to the Western parts of North Ameica, Prince Maximilian, a disciple of Alexander Von Humbolt, was already a well respected naturalist. who previously had researched Brazil's Indian tribes, plants and animals. Prince Maximilian travelled first to Boston, New York. Philadelphia and Pittsburg beginning in July 1832, before turning westernward. The Missouri River portion of the expedition commenced from St. Louis in March 1832, with the party travelling up the Missouri River on the American Fur Company steamboat "Yellowstone," stopping forts built by the Company and meeting their first Indians at Bellevue. The travelers continued on another steamboat, "Assiniboin," to Fort Union, where they met the Crees and Assiniboins. They wintered at Fort Clark, then continued by keelboat to Fort Mackenzie, the Westernmost point of the expedition. After visiting the Blackfeet for several weeks, Maximilian returned using a southward route, reaching St. Louis in May 1834.

The production of Prince Maximilian's travel account would take an additonal 5 years, before the final publication of his *Reise in das Innere Nord-America in den Jahren 1832 bis 1834 . . .* in Coblenz (1839-41), a work which is now highly sought after by collectors.

Detailed Condition: