



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

The Unique Map of California

Stock#: 31526
Map Maker: Johnstone
Date: 1888 circa
Place: San Francisco
Color: Color
Condition: VG
Size: 22.5 x 18.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Unique variant edition of Johnstone's rare decorative promotional map of California, published by the Southern Pacific Company and the State Board of Trade of California as a promotional item for prospective immigrants.

Johnstone's remarkable map, published by the Southern Pacific Railroad and the State Board of Trade, promoted the idea that California was a place of great natural beauty and with rich agricultural soil. Each county in the state is listed, with its acreage, and with the main agricultural products and extractive industries that happened in the county. Oranges, lumber, figs, almonds, honey, cereals, quicksilver and semi tropical fruits were some of the things listed. The images that decorate the map, and the text that was included which claimed California had "the grandest scenery in North America" and that the air was "dry, pure, and invigorating" promoted tourism to the state.

This is a remarkable map with twenty vignettes of California scenes and three inset maps showing soil, temperature, and areas. Another inset shows the heights of the Sierra Nevada mountains. All these



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elements combine to make a beautiful map. Little is know about the maker, Johnstone, except that he drew the Climatic Map of California as well.

There are two recorded editions of the map, both lacking a copyright date. One edition bears a legend to the left of the title that it was "published under the auspices of the the Southern Pacific Railroad and the State Board of Trade of California." The other edition lacks this legend. We offer here an unrecorded third variant edition, promoting "Kohler & Van Bergen, San Francisco and New York, California Wine and Brandies."

Kohler & Van Bergen had offices in San Francisco from 1884 to 1894.

The map is of the utmost rarity. OCLC lists 2 copies of the "Southern Pacific Company" edition of the map (New York Public Library, UW Milwaukee) and 3 copies of the "unattributed" edition (Bancroft, Penn State, Library of Congress). Rumsey also holds a copy of the "unattributed" edition.

Detailed Condition:

Minor tears and fold splits, repaired on verso. Some soiling