



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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Map of the Countries Round the North Pole

Stock#: 44919
Map Maker: Stanford
Date: 1896 circa
Place: London
Color: Color
Condition: VG-
Size: 25 x 20 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Scarce example of Edward Stanford's map depicting the entire Arctic Region, featuring the furthest-most points reached by numerous exploring expeditions.

This fascinating map embraces the entire Arctic regions of the World, within a unique ovoid presentation. Centered on the North Pole, it variously extends as far south as 50 to 55 degrees North. All countries are distinguished by their own colors, and major geographic and oceanic features are labeled.

Most interestingly, it features a line labelled "The Probable drift of Nansen 1894" crossing the immediate location of the Geographical North Pole. The Norwegian explorer Fridtjof Nansen endeavored an expedition to reach the North Pole, aboard the ship Fram, from 1893 to 1896. While the Fram did in fact "drift" towards the Pole, Nansen only claimed to have reached 86

While the Fram did in fact "drift" towards the Pole, Nansen only claimed to have reached 86 °14' North (in 1894) then the furthestmost point North ever reached. It is most curious that this map shows Nansen as having reached the Pole. While Robert Peary claimed (dubiously) to have reached the Pole in 1909, it was only in 1928 that Roald Admundsen could make the undisputed claim to have been the first to reach the North Pole.



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Additionally, the American portion of the map, at the Bering Sea, is labelled with information on the seasonal fishing restrictions. The amount of information featured on the map is truly extraordinary, and is unrivalled by any Arctic map of comparable size.

The map was issued around 1896 by Edward Stanford, then Britain's leading map publisher, in an effort to capitalize on the great contemporary interest in Polar expeditions, seen as the 'last frontier' in global exploration. Stanford had good connections with academic institutions such as the Royal Geographical Society and government bodies such as the Admiralty, so was always able to gain the most accurate information. The present map was one of Stanford's series of progressively updated maps of the Arctic Regions, the first of which was published around 1875, and the last issued in the 1930s.

This map is rare, as are all other issues of Stanford's Arctic series. We are aware of only a single other example of this edition appearing in dealers' catalogs during the last 25 years.

Detailed Condition:

Long repaired tear at the right side. Lower corner margins replaced in facsimile paper.