

Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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New South Wales





Description:

Rare early map of New South Wales, published by John Wyld.

The map appears to be a very early edition of the map.

Wyld's map depicts all of the settled areas of Australia as they appeared around 1840. The main map embraces the area of the modern states of New South Wales and Victoria.

Most of the settlement is concentrated in two regions, the eighteen counties in New South Wales, which then included all of Queensland, centered around Sydney. Victoria remains unorganized and unnamed territory, shown more than a decade before the gold rush.

By this time, the coastlines of the subcontinent were well defined following the explorations of Matthew



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Flinders and others, however, a majority of the interior remained a complete enigma. Importantly the map depicts the recent discoveries of several explorers, especially with respect to the conspicuous detail in the interior of what in now Victoria and the far southern part of New South Wales.

On various treks from 1824 to 1828, Hamilton Hume, discovered the overland route from Sydney to Port Philipp (the future site of Melbourne), as well as the Darling River, the Murray River's longest tributary. Knowledge of the Murray Basin and surrounding regions was expanded upon by the expeditions of Charles Sturt from 1828 to 1830, and Sir Thomas Mitchell from 1831 to 1836. Mitchell had previously been responsible for the mapping of the settled regions of New South Wales as shown on this map, an achievement for which he received his knighthood.

James Wyld (1812-87) was then one of the world's leading mapmakers, holding the title of official Geographer to Queen Victoria. The present map is one of Wyld's sequences of continually updated maps of Australia and her regions, and are of great historical importance for it played a definitive role in recording the rapid progress of exploration and development during Australia's formative years.

Detailed Condition:

Folding map--minor toning.