



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

[Southwest, Texas & Plains Sheet] A Map Exhibiting all the New Discoveries in the Interior Parts of North America. Inscribed by Permission To the Honorable Governor And Company of Adventurers of England Trading Into Hudsons Bay . . . Additions to 1802

Stock#: 46353dd
Map Maker: Arrowsmith

Date: 1802
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size:

Price: SOLD



Description:

American Southwest, Texas and Plains Section of Arrowsmith's Map of North America

One section of Aaron Arrowsmith's map of North America, one of the seminal maps for the early history of the Transmississippi West.

The map extends from the lower Missouri River (with just a bit of the Mississippi River north of St. Louis Shown) to Vermillion Bay on the coast of Louisiana, to Mission San Gabriel and Point Loma in Southern California, including all or most of Texas, Colorado, Kansas, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Missouri and Arkansas.

The present section is 1 sheet from an example of Arrowsmith's map is the second 1802 edition (6th State overall). This is the first state after the state of Arrowsmith's map which was brought on the expedition and consulted by Lewis & Clark at various points in the first leg of their journey in search of the headwaters of the Missouri. Three journal entries of Merriwether Lewis in early June 1805 specifically reference the expeditions attempts to reconcile the contents of the Arrowsmith map with the information provided by the local Indians, in order to determine which of the branches of the Missouri might provide the best possible portage through the Rocky Mountains.

The 1st and 2nd 1802 Editions of Arrowsmith's Map

The additions and corrections present in the fifth and sixth states of the map, coming from Peter Fidler and the Hudson Bay Company, were the result of Fidler's extensive contacts with the indigenous tribes on



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the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains and contributed greatly to the geographical knowledge of the region prior to the return of Lewis & Clark in 1806. The information was transmitted through the Hudson's Bay Company channels back to England and very quickly delivered to Arrowsmith, who was then the primary mapmaker for the HBC.

The map renders a depiction of the Rocky Mountains and the sources of the Missouri River, which must have originated with Indian sources, including those taken from Peter Fidler's reports to the Hudson Bay Company and other sources not identified.

On this sheet, there are two major changes which were not present on the 5th state of the map. First, there are two notes at the northernmost part of the Rocky Mountains, the first stating "Hereabouts the Mountains divide into several low Ridges" and "Pearl Shell Lake is here About according to the Indian Accounts nearly 100 Miles long S.W. and N.E. The Water is Brackish."

Second, the various unnamed rivers shown north of Teguayo and Taos are extended much further north than in the 5th state.

These changes are most likely drawn from Fidler.

Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson owned the 1802 map, as well as an 1802 edition of Arrowsmith's map of the United States. Arrowsmith's 1802 map of North America was the most comprehensive map of the West available to Jefferson and Lewis and it was probably the most important map used in the planning of the expedition and the map which inspired Jefferson's visualization of what would become known as American manifest destiny.

The information on the map also fed Jefferson's misconceptions of western geography, most notably is a depiction of the Rocky Mountains as a single long chain, along with a depiction of source of the Missouri River at the eastern edge of the Rockies, suggesting the prospect of an easy portage across through the mountains.

This is the first time we have ever seen a single sheet of the map offered for sale.



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Detailed Condition:

1 Sheet from Arrowsmith's Map of North America, with neatlines added in manuscript.