



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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Texas and Mexico Showing Houston and Texas Central System of Railways

Stock#: 49764
Map Maker: Rand McNally & Company
Date: 1885
Place: Chicago
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 28 x 20.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare Promotional Map for the Houston & Texas Central Railroad

Large Railroad promotional map of Texas detailing the Houston and Texas Central Railway lines, one of the earliest operating railroads in the state of Texas.

The map was printed shortly after the acquisition of the line by the Southern Pacific Company, in 1883.

The map shows the various operating lines of the H&TC Railway, along with each station along the route.

The map includes an inset railroad map of the United States upper right. Verso printed with tables and advertisements.

Houston & Texas Central Railway



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The routes for the H&TC begin with the charter for the Galveston and Red River Railway on March 11, 1848. The company became active until 1852, when it was utilized for a railroad from Houston to the Brazos River and the interior of Texas.

On January 1, 1853, ground was first broken for the G&RR at Houston. Track laying began in early 1856, and the rails reached Cypress City, the twenty-five-mile point, on July 26, 1856. On September 1, 1856, the company was renamed Houston and Texas Central Railway Company. By April 22, 1861, the railroad was open eighty-one miles to Millican, but the Civil War prevented any additional construction until 1867.

The H&TC reached Corsicana in 1871, Dallas in 1872, and Denison in 1873. At Denison connection was made with the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad to form the first all-rail route from Texas to St. Louis and the East.

In 1867, the H&TC acquired the Washington County Railroad, which had completed a line between Hempstead and Brenham in April 1861. This line was extended to Austin, where the final spike was driven on Christmas Day, 1871. The H&TC also acquired the Waco and Northwestern, formerly the Waco Tap, and completed the line between Bremond and Waco in 1872.

Other railroads subsequently merged into the H&TC include the Austin and Northwestern, Central Texas and Northwestern, Fort Worth and New Orleans, Hearne and Brazos Valley, and Houston Railway.

The H&TC was sold to Charles Morgan in March 1877 and came under Southern Pacific control when that company acquired the Morgan interests in 1883. However, it operated under its own name until 1927.

Rarity

The map is very rare. We note only the David Rumsey copy of the 1883 edition (Stanford) and SMU (1882) and the Houston Public Library (1880) list earlier editions. The present example was purchased at auction in December 2016 from Swann Auction Galleries. We note no other examples at auction or in dealer catalogues dating back more than 30 years.

Detailed Condition: