



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## The River Niger Shewing The Course of the Expedition Under Captain Trotter in 1841.

**Stock#:** 57317  
**Map Maker:** Arrowsmith  
**Date:** 1855  
**Place:** London  
**Color:** Color  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 19.5 x 24 inches  
**Price:** \$ 275.00



### Description:

Fine large format map of the Course of the Niger River, published by John Arrowsmith in London.

H.D. Trotter was the leader of an expedition up the Niger River, as part of a delegation of British Officers, including William Allen (1793-1864), under the auspices of the Society for the Extinction of the Slave Trade and for the Civilization of Africa. Sent to the Niger with orders to penetrate as far as possible and make treaties with the local rulers to outlaw the Slave Trade, the expedition met with considerable hardship from first entering the river. For the most part they remained healthy for the first month until reaching Iddah after which many of here crew were struck down with fever until matters were so grave that even the determined Capt. Trotter was forced to order Captain Allen retreated to the coast while he pushed on in the hopes of reaching a healthier climate upstream. But fever continued too ravage the crew and by the 8th August any further progress was clearly impossible. The expedition was considered a disastrous failure though Commander Allen cites the three treaties signed with the most influential potentates on the river to have constituted partial success.

Allen published *A Narrative of the Expedition sent by H.M.'s Government to the River Niger in 1841*,



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following up on his earlier pictorial publication,

Allen described these particular expeditions as “desirable for nobler ends than the acquisition of wealth”, with a pledge to help eradicate the persistent and pervasive slave trade network. In 1846 he published a pamphlet on ‘*Mutual Improvement*,’ a Utopian-like recipe for moral development and social compassion. In 1849, his *Plan for the immediate Extinction of the Slave Trade, for the Relief of the West India Colonies* was a provocative scheme to have slave-dependent nations transition their slaves into short-term binding apprenticeships with fixed end-dates for release and economic freedom.

*Inset: The lower course of the River Niger as far as it was ascended in the expedition under Captn. Trotter R.N. 1841.*

**Detailed Condition:**