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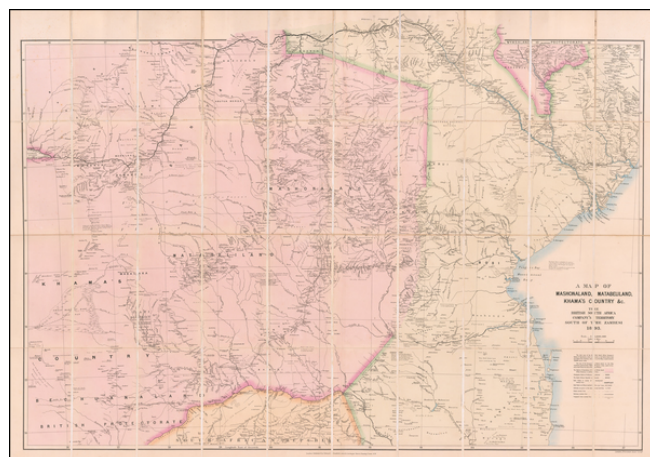
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A Map of Mashonaland, Matabeliland, Khama's Country &c. The British South Africa Company's Territory South of the Zambesi 1893.

Stock#: 59875
Map Maker: Stanford
Date: 1893
Place: London
Color: Color
Condition: VG+
Size: 51 x 35.7 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Detailed map illustrating a portion of South Africa and depicting the Sphere of Operations of the British South Africa Company (BSAC).

The legend note that the total area of sphere of operations of the BASC lands is approximately 750,000 square miles, with the lands shown on this map totalling about 220,000 miles, 2.5 times the size of Great Britain.

The areas shown include:

- BSAC sphere of influence (pink)
- Portuguese sphere of influence (green)
- South African Republic Sphere of influence (brown).

Gold Mines and Reef Mines are noted, as are elevations, roads, railways, telegraph lines, etc.

The **British South Africa Company** (BSAC or BSACo) was established following the amalgamation of Cecil Rhodes' Central Search Association and the London-based Exploring Company Ltd which had originally competed to exploit the expected mineral wealth of Mashonaland but united because of common economic interests and to secure British government backing. The company received a Royal Charter in 1889 modelled on that of the British East India Company. Its first directors included the Duke of Abercorn, Rhodes himself and the South African financier Alfred Beit. Rhodes hoped BSAC would promote colonization and economic exploitation across much of south-central Africa, as part of the "Scramble for



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Africa". However, his main focus was south of the Zambezi, in Mashonaland and the coastal areas to its east, from which he believed the Portuguese could be removed by payment or force, and in the Transvaal, which he hoped would return to British control.

It has been suggested that Rhodes' ambition was to create a zone of British commercial and political influence from "Cape to Cairo", but this was far beyond the resources of any commercial company to achieve and would not have given investors the financial returns they expected. The BSAC was created in the expectation that the gold fields of Mashonaland would provide funds for the development of other areas of Central Africa, including the mineral wealth of Katanga. When the expected wealth of Mashonaland did not materialize and Katanga was acquired by the Congo Free State, the company had little money left for significant development after building railways, particularly in areas north of the Zambezi. BSAC regarded its lands north of the Zambezi as territory to be held as cheaply as possible for future, rather than immediate, exploitation.

Rarity

OCLC locates 3 copies.

Detailed Condition:

Dissected and mounted on linen, with publisher's advertisements at endpapers. Folds into original covers with publisher's label.