



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

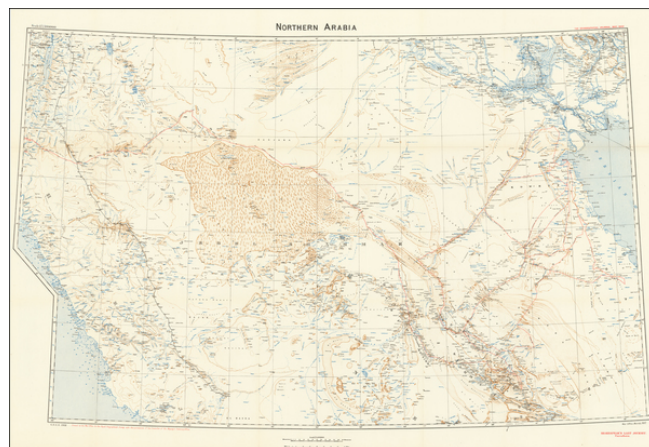
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Northern Arabia

Stock#: 63260
Map Maker: Royal Geographical Society
Date: 1922
Place: London
Color: Color
Condition: VG+
Size: 38 x 24 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

A Map to Illustrate Captain William Shakespear's Last Journey

Highly detailed map was produced by the British War Office for the Royal Geographical Society with the permission of the controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office in March 1922.

The map illustrates the physical features of northern Arabia, i.e., the steppe from Arabian Hasa (often seen as Ahsa) in the southeast to Jerusalem in the northwest. The map detail includes altitude contour lines, lakes, rivers, and seasonal stream courses (wadis).

The map identifies the trails and encampments of earlier travelers and explorers, such as Gertrude Bell (1868–1926), Charles Montagu Doughty (1843–1926), and Captain William Shakespear (1878–1915).

The map was prepared to accompany a Royal Geographical Society journal article by Douglas Carruthers, "Captain Shakespear's Last Journey," published in *Geographical Journal* in May 1922.

The pilgrimage routes to Mecca from Syria and Egypt are clearly shown. Significant human features, such as ancient ruins or contemporary oil fields, are absent.

The border between Iran and Iraq is the only international boundary shown, as the other borders of the Arabian Desert were still under negotiation between the British and the tribal leaders of Kuwait, southern Iraq, and Nejd (or Najd) in present-day Saudi Arabia.

Captain William Shakespear



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Northern Arabia

In March, 1914, Captain Shakespear travelled 1250 Kilometers from Kuwait to Riyadh and thereafter on to Aqaba. Shakespear undertook meticulous observations, mapping and studying the region in great detail, the first European to do so.

In November, 1914, the British asked Captain Shakespear to secure Ibn Sa'ud's support for a British-Indian Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force, which had just taken Basra.

At the Battle of Jarrab in January 1915, Ibn Sa'ud encouraged Shakespear to clear the area before the battle commenced. Shakespear declined and died during the fighting. The victorious Rashidis decapitated Shakespear and his solar helmet was given to the Ottoman authorities and hung on one of the main gates of Medina as proof of the Al Sauds' collaboration with the British.

Rarity

The map appears periodically on the market. An archive of Carruthers material, including this map and extensive printed material sold at Sothebys in April 2015 for 37,500

GBP. <http://www.sothebys.com/en/auctions/ecatalogue/2015/travel-atlases-maps-natural-history-115401/lot.189.html>

Detailed Condition: