



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

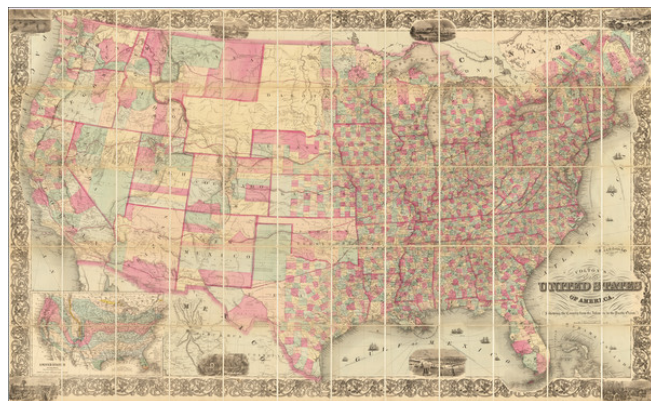
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Colton's Map of the United States of America, Showing the Country from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean.

Stock#: 65753
Map Maker: Colton
Date: 1867
Place: New York
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 63.5 x 38 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

GW & CB Colton's First US-Centric Coast To Coast Map of the United States

Fine large map of the United States, published in New York By GW & CB Colton.

The map provides a marvelous overview of the United States, at a moment in time when the country's focus was shifting away from the Civil War and toward the impending completion of the Transcontinental Railroad, finally linking the two American coasts by rail.

The map illustrates the final iteration of how commercial mapmakers perceived the United States for purposes of constructing a large scale commercial map. While earlier maps of "only" the United States tended to focus first on the region east of the Mississippi River and later on the region east of the Rocky Mountains, virtually all maps "of the United States" which extended to the Pacific Ocean tended to include most or all of Mexico and large parts of Canada. Almost certainly, the impetus for change was the Transcontinental Railroad. While earlier large format maps had no particular need to provide significant detail on the regions between the Mississippi River and the Pacific Coast, once the country could be traversed by rail, there was simply no reason to devote significant space and effort engraving large scales maps that treated Mexico and Canada on a similar scale, hence the "British provinces, Mexico and the West Indies" have been dropped both from the map's title and its geographical coverage.

The map is a veritable tour de force of cartographic detail west of the Mississippi River. Its treatment of the progress of the Northern, Central and Southern transcontinental railroad lines is exceptional, as its meticulous accounting of the military explorations in the west, illustrating the overland routes throughout the west forged by Fremont, Emory, Albert & Peck, Woodruff, Mullan, Donelson, Stansbury, Gunnison, Simpson, Whipple, Parke and others.



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The map includes eight vignette scenes around or within the decorative floral border, and a large inset map at lower left, "United States of America Showing Isothermal Lines and Zones of Equal Average Temperature."

The map shows the nearly-evolved boundaries of western states and territories, with the major unfinished delineation being Dakota and Wyoming attached as one; the proposed and nearly completed rail lines across the plains are shown, as are explorers' routes, recent forts, and much comment about the country.

The Gold Region of Colorado is prominently shown.

Rarity

The map is very rare. We have been unable to track another example of the map in any institutional collection.

Provenance: Warren Heckrotte Sale at PBA Galleries.

Detailed Condition:

Superb original color. Dissected and laid on original linen. Overall an excellent example.