



## Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard  
La Jolla, CA 92037

[www.raremaps.com](http://www.raremaps.com)

(858) 551-8500  
[blr@raremaps.com](mailto:blr@raremaps.com)

### Perspective Map of the City of Laredo, Texas. The Gateway to and from Mexico.

**Stock#:** 65960  
**Map Maker:** American Publishing Co. & Wellge  
**Date:** 1890 circa  
**Place:** Milwaukee  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 33 x 21.5 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



#### Description:

##### *Attractive Texas Birds-Eye-View.*

Impressive two-stone lithograph birds-eye-view of Laredo, Texas, attributed to Henry Wellge, one of the most important viewmakers in the 19th century.

The viewer looks over Laredo from south of the Rio Grande River. There is an inset map of "Laredo's Railway Connections" which stretch from Mexico City to Chicago. In the lower right corner is a view titled "Continuation of 'The Heights' From Point 'A'". Eight landmark buildings have their own vignettes, including: City Hall; Webb County Court House; Opera House; Hotel Hamilton; The Laredo Improvement Co.; Commercial Hotel; Office Block; and Masonic Hall.

The table of population paints a picture of a booming city; the population had grown from 1,500 in 1880 to 12,000 in March 1890.

In the Amon Carter Museum's online exhibit of Texas birds-eye-views, Dr. Ron Tyler writes of this Wellge's view of Laredo:

*The railroads brought prosperity and new settlers to Laredo when they arrived in 1881, and the city grew from an 1880 population of 3,521 to 11,319 in 1890. But instead of focusing on the railroads, as many other bird's-eye-view artists had done, Henry Wellge emphasized the results of the railroads, which had turned Laredo into a growing city and the gateway to Mexico. The Texas Mexican Railway linked Laredo with Corpus Christi, and the International and Great Northern linked it with San Antonio. The Mexican National, which established shops and a roundhouse in Laredo, linked the city and the rest of the country, via the first international bridge, to Mexico City and made*



## Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard  
La Jolla, CA 92037

[www.raremaps.com](http://www.raremaps.com)

(858) 551-8500  
[blr@raremaps.com](mailto:blr@raremaps.com)

---

### **Perspective Map of the City of Laredo, Texas. The Gateway to and from Mexico.**

*Laredo the gateway to Mexico.*

*Wellge documented the city's expansion from the southeast, especially in terms of downtown buildings such as the new Webb County Courthouse and the combination city hall and market house. Most of the structures in the city were modest one-story buildings, but the new prosperity had spurred a building boom. This growth was reflected in increased property values, scarce hotel rooms, and high demand for building materials, such as lumber and bricks. The arrival of the railroads also provided a market for the local coal, found near the upriver village of Minera, which had been known for decades but now could be profitably mined. As Wellge showed, miners floated the coal down the river on barges when possible, but developers built the Rio Grande and Pecos Railway in 1882-83 to link the mines with the city. When the RG&P collapsed, the Rio Grande and Eagle Pass Railway took it over. Wellge suggested the location of the mines on the horizon, in the upper left-hand corner of the print.*

*The community itself had also undergone dramatic change in the decade since the railroads arrived. Steamboat traffic on the Rio Grande had begun to diminish as irrigation took so much water from the river that boats often ran aground. The railroads were more reliable, bringing thousands of newcomers into the community. Laredo remained a predominantly Mexican city, but the arrival of large numbers of Anglo-Americans led to the development of a separate Anglo culture and society, and the change was apparent by the turn of the century.*

The Amon Carter Museum dates the view to 1892. This is possible, but given the dates in the tables below the image, 1890 is a viable date as well.

#### **Rarity**

We have found examples at the Library of Congress, Penn State, and the Amon Carter Museum.

Dorothy Sloan sold an example for \$6,125 as lot 32 in auction 23.

#### **Detailed Condition:**