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Route of the Expedition from York Factory to Cumberland House and the Summer & Winter Tracks from thence to the Isles a la Crosse, in 1819 and 1820

Stock#: 75879
Map Maker: Franklin
Date: 1828
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition:
Size: 22 x 9.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Scarce map of the routes of the British explorers on the Coppermine expedition.

The map illustrates the daily movements of Sir John Franklin's watercourse beginning in September 1819 at York Factory, near Hudson Bay and concluding at Cumberland House, north of Lake Winnipeg, through Manitoba and Saskatchewan, prepared to accompany the first edition of Franklin's Narrative of his second expedition to the Arctic.

Coppermine Expedition

The Coppermine expedition of 1819-1822 was a British overland undertaking to survey and chart the area from Hudson Bay to the north coast of Canada, eastwards from the mouth of the Coppermine River. The expedition was organized by the Royal Navy as part of its attempt to discover and map the Northwest Passage. It was the first of three Arctic expeditions to be led by John Franklin and also included George Back and John Richardson, both of whom would become notable Arctic explorers in their own right.

The expected assistance from the local fur trading companies and native peoples was less forthcoming than expected. Poor supply lines, coupled with unusually harsh weather and the resulting absence of game, meant the explorers were frequently near starvation. Eventually, the Arctic coast was reached, but barely 500 miles had been explored before the exhaustion of the party's supplies and the onset of winter forced them to turn back.

What followed was a desperate retreat across uncharted territory in a state of starvation, with 11 of the party of 22 dying enroute amid accusations of murder and cannibalism. The survivors were rescued by members of the Yellowknives Nation, who had previously given them up for dead.



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In the aftermath, Franklin was criticized by local fur traders for his haphazard planning and failure to adapt. Back in Britain he was received as a hero and fêted for the courage he had shown in extreme adversity. The expedition captured the public imagination, and in reference to a desperate measure he took while starving, he became known as "the man who ate his boots".

Detailed Condition:

Minor foxing and misfolding.