



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Mapa del Distrito de Tula Levantado por el S.D. Tomas Ramon del Moral . . . 1851

Stock#: 76010
Map Maker: Ramón de Moral
Date: 1851
Place: Mexico City
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 18.5 x 25.5 inches
Price: \$ 1,600.00



Description:

Very Rare Map of Tula By Mexico's Most Important Practitioner of Scientific Mapping in the Mid-Nineteenth Century

Fine, detailed, and extremely rare map of the district of Tula, in the State of Mexico. We can locate only two institutional examples of this map, which was part of the first atlas of the State of Mexico.

The map was made by Tomás Ramón de Moral, a skilled cartography and surveyor who worked on the first geodesic survey of the State of Mexico. The map was updated by the influential *Sociedad de Geografía y Estadística*, Mexico's first geographical society.

The district, an administrative unit below the state level, is bordered to the south and east by other districts of the State of Mexico, which is in central Mexico. The map includes political and geographic



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information, including many mountains and hills drawn with hachures. A key in the lower left denotes local sites; it includes symbols for the state capital, *partido* (similar to a county) seats, parish seats, villages, haciendas, ranches, highways, and district, *partido*, and municipality boundaries.

The first atlas of the State of Mexico

This map was part of the first atlas of the State of Mexico, a project undertaken by Ramón de Moral. At that time, the State covered the modern states of Hidalgo, Tlaxcala, Guerrero, as well as the modern State of Mexico. He and his colleagues with the *Comisión de Estadística del Estado de México* toured the countryside from 1827 to 1830 producing the first maps based on the first geodetic survey in Mexico. The maps were completed by 1833 but they were not published until 1851-2, four years after Ramón de Moral's death.

De Moral had surveyed Taxco, Chilapa, and Acapulco as part of his original triangulation survey, but they had been carved out of the State of Mexico by 1849. As a result, when the atlas was published, it contained eight district maps and a four-sheet general map of the State. The maps were published in the following order: in 1851, Tula, Tulancingo, Texcoco, Cuernavaca, and Sultepec; in 1852, Huetjutla, Tlalnepantla, Toluca, and the general map.

The atlas also involved the *Sociedad de Geografía y Estadística* (Mexican Society for Geography and Statistics), who reviewed and corrected the maps. Founded in 1833, the *Sociedad* was the first geographical society in the Americas and only in the fourth in the world. The Society was established to create a cohesive map of the nation state of Mexico; the country was in urgent need of maps to define the borders and aid governmental agencies. The aim of their projects was to survey topography and natural resources, identify potential for development, and record demographic information.

The atlas was produced under the order of Don Mariano Riva Palacio (1803-1880), a prominent politician in nineteenth-century Mexico. A native of Mexico D. F., Palacio was married to the daughter of a hero of the Mexican War of Independence, General Vincente Guerrero. He began his political life as a City Councilor in Mexico D. F. before being elected a federal Congressman. He went on to serve as the Minister of Finance, Minister of Justice, and the Governor of the State of Mexico. Indeed, Palacio was three times the Governor, elected in 1849 (to 1851), 1857, and 1869 (to 1871). Interestingly, he was imprisoned during Santa Anna's final presidency (1852-4) and was appointed as the lawyer to defend the deposed Emperor Maximilian, who was executed in 1867. Palacio is remembered for his work to develop Mexico's law enforcement system, as well as its infrastructure. An atlas of the State of Mexico fits squarely within his interests to better know his state and within the state's interest of development.

Finally, the atlas maps were lithographed by Placido Blanco. Blanco gained fame in Mexico D. F., where



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the firm worked on a variety of projects including the *Revista Cientifica y Literaria* (1845-46). In 1851, the business moved to Toluca to run the lithography works at the *Instituto Literario*, where the atlas maps were produced.

Rarity

The map is extremely rare, as very few examples of the atlas and its maps were ever printed. We locate only 2 examples, in the Bibliotheque National de France and Cornell.

Detailed Condition:

Mounted on original linen. Toned, with some minor cracking and lighter sections.