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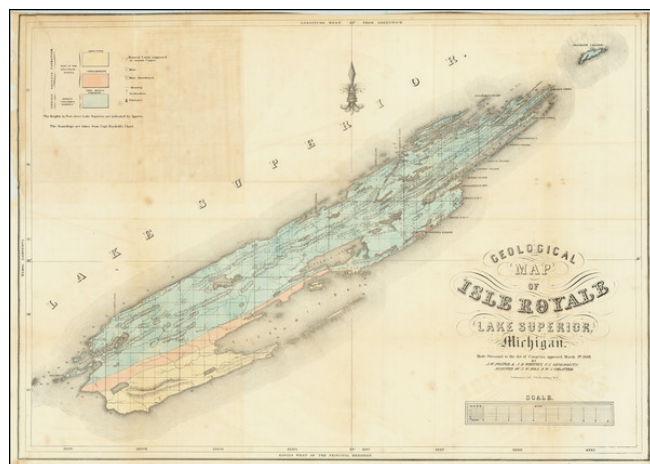
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Geological Map of Isle Royale Lake Superior, Michigan. Made Pursuant to the Act of Congress, approved March 1st 1847. By J.W. Foster & J.D. Whitney, U.S. Geologists

Stock#: 78928
Map Maker: Whitney & Foster
Date: 1850
Place: New York
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 24.5 x 17.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Early geological map of the Isle Royale, published in New York for the 31st Congress. This is almost certainly the earliest geological map of the island to delineate its geology correctly.

On the map, three Silurian units are denoted, a sandstone, a conglomerate, and a basic igneous unit. In addition, early mines are denoted. The map accurately shows the southeast dipping strata which define the island. The system is part of a syncline generated by two faults, the second of which underlies the Keweenaw Peninsula.

The survey and map are by geologists J.W. Foster and J.D. Whitney with assistance from S.W. Hill and W.S. Chlatter. It originally appeared in their *Report on the Geology and Topography of a portion of the Lake Superior Land District in The State of Michigan*.

Foster and Whitney Mapping the Great Lakes

This map was included in a report was presented to the House of Representatives, following an 1847 commission to survey the land with a particular focus on copper mining. This survey was completed by J. W. Foster and J. D. Whitney.

Copper deposits in the Lake Superior region had been known to the Native Americans (copper mining deposits six thousand years old have been discovered) and appeared on the first geological map of North America, published in 1756. After treaties with the Indians in the 1830s and 1840s, public interest grew in exploiting these deposits. The state of Michigan attempted a survey, but the efforts were abandoned when



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the lead surveyor, Douglas Haughton, drowned during field work. In the meantime, Congress opened the lands to claims and sent what would become the first detailed survey of the region, originally lead by Charles Jackson. Jackson was dismissed for unclear reasons, and his assistants John Wells Foster and Josiah Whitney were put in charge. This was one of the earliest scientific publications of Josiah Whitney, an important figure in Californian history.

By 1850 the report would be ready. Foster and Whitney presented this report detailing their findings. They started with an introduction to the region's history of exploration, starting with the Raymbault and Jogue 1641 voyage. The rest of the work goes into great detail regarding the region, discussing not just the geology and mining capabilities, but the flora, fauna, soils, rivers, and much more.

Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color. Some mild toning and offsetting.