



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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Chart of North Polar Sea

Stock#: 81147
Map Maker: British Admiralty
Date: 1855 (1874 ca)
Place: London
Color: Color
Condition: VG
Size: 25 x 31 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare British Admiralty Map of the North Polar Regions, focusing on the most updated explorations of the various seafaring nations then exploring the Arctic Regions.

First issued December 24, 1855 and periodically updated to reflect the most recent explorations, the map identifies the explorations of various nations, with the printed legend noting:

- Seas first navigated by British expeditions (Blue)
- The Coasts discovered by British explorers before 1800 (Dark Blue)
- The Coasts discovered by British explorers after 1800, (1818-1859) (Brown)
- The Coasts explored in late years (1859-74) by Americans, Germans, Swedes and Austrians (Red)

Issued in the year following the discovery of John Franklin's lost ship, the map tracks the progress following the discovery of the Northwest passage. Discoveries shown include the following:



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- 1820-24 Ferdinand von Wrangel and Fyodor Matyushkin explore the East Siberian Sea and the Chukchi Sea areas
- 1821-24 Fyodor Litke explores the eastern Barents Sea and the west coast of Novaya Zemlya, including Matochkin Strait
- 1821-23 Pyotr Anjou continues exploration of New Siberian Islands
- 1853-55 Second Grinnell Expedition led by Elisha Kane looks for Franklin searching Grinnell Land
- 1857-59 British expedition led by Francis Leopold McClintock was the fifth expedition sponsored by Lady Franklin and found artefacts, a crew members skeleton and the final written communications from the last survivors of the Franklin expedition
- 1860-61 American expedition led by Isaac Israel Hayes who claimed to have seen the Open Polar Sea
- 1860-62 First expedition led by American Charles Francis Hall
- 1864-69 Second expedition led by Charles Francis Hall
- 1868 First German North Polar Expedition led by Carl Koldewey along the east coast of Greenland
- 1869-70 Second German North Polar Expedition (Germania and Hansa) led by Carl Koldewey reaches Sabine Island
- 1871-73 Third expedition led by Charles Francis Hall the Polaris expedition
- 1872-74 Austro-Hungarian North Pole expedition led by Captain Karl Weyprecht

Rarity

The map is rare on the market. We note an 1875 example that sold at Christie's in 2017 and a copy offered by Francis Edwards in 1972.

We previously sold another example of the chart in 2018.

Detailed Condition:

Folding map. Dissected and mounted on contemporary linen, with some minor fraying to the linen at folds. Mounted in original gilt-lettered cloth covers. Foxing to the lower-left panel.