



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

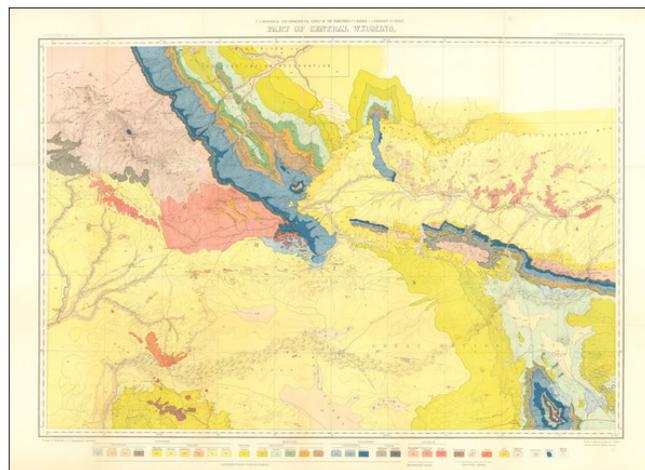
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Part of Central Wyoming

Stock#: 81901
Map Maker: Hayden
Date: 1879
Place: Washington, D. C.
Color: Color
Condition: VG
Size: 33 x 25 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Interesting early geological map of the central Wyoming plateau, spanning from the Wind River Range in the northwest of the map to Rawlins in the southeast. Showing a great level of geological and topographic detail, this map was printed in 1879 following the conclusion of the Hayden Surveys of the American West.

The map is exceptionally informative from a geological standpoint, with twenty-two strata shown. Sedimentary rocks, metamorphic rocks, and erupted rocks are all shown, going as far back in date as the archaean (supposedly). Interestingly, glaciers are also shown.

The Hayden Survey -- The Greatest of the Four Great Surveys

The late 1860s and early 1870s saw four great surveys of the American West: the King Survey, which mapped the region around the 40th parallel; the Wheeler Survey, which attempted (unsuccessfully) to map the whole of the territories and western states at a moderate scale; the Powell Survey, which focused on the southwest and the Grand Canyon region; and finally the Hayden survey, which surveyed the territory of Colorado as well as the last great unmapped region of the Lower Forty-Eight: the Yellowstone Basin.

The Hayden Survey's most prolific years were 1871-72, which were dedicated to northwestern Wyoming. Up until then, the Yellowstone had been briefly explored by two previous surveys, including the Folsom-Cook and the Washburn-Langford-Doane expeditions of 1869 and 1870 respectively. However, these surveys lacked the resources of the Hayden Surveys: full government support, tens of thousands of dollars, and over sixty men. The Hayden Survey relentlessly worked on the territory, and its reports--most notably in the photos published which were taken by William H. Jackson--were the reason why the senate approved Yellowstone as the nation's first national park in 1871.



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The area around Jackson Hole was surveyed primarily in the summer of 1872. In that year, the expedition split up between a group dedicated to the Yellowstone, led by Hayden, and one dedicated to the Snake River area, led by James Stevenson. The latter group primarily spent the majority of the summer focused on the Tetons and Jackson's Hole. During this part of the survey, William Jackson took the first photos of the Tetons, and James Stevenson and his colleague N. P. Langford became the first Anglo-Americans to climb Grand Teton.

The Hayden Survey would return to the Jackson Hole area in 1877 and 1878, however, the bulk of the mapping had been conducted in 1872. 1878 was the final field year for all the four great surveys, after which the federal government, wary of the often conflicting politics of the parties, founded the USGS to consolidate the surveying exercise. These Great Surveys represented the last triumph of the age of discovery in the American West.

Detailed Condition:

Modern archival linen backing. Some fold intersections with minor repairs.