



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

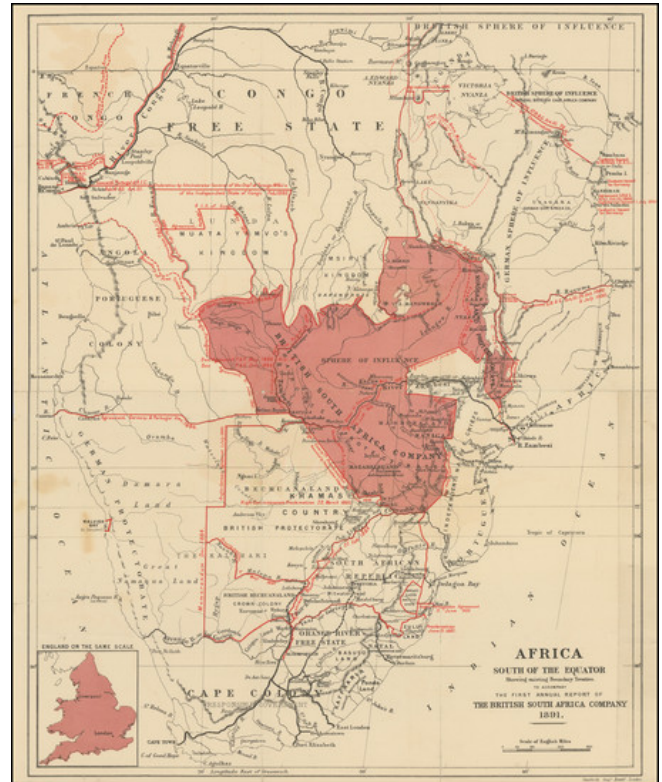
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[British South Africa Company] Africa South of the Equator Showing existing Boundary Treaties To Accompany The First Annual Report of The British South Africa Company. 1891.

Stock#: 95007
Map Maker: Stanford
Date: 1891
Place: London
Color: Color
Condition: VG
Size: 15.75 x 19.75 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fascinating map of the southern part of Africa, originally compiled by George Cawston, capturing a critical time in African history, namely the division and colonization of the continent by European powers.

The British South Africa Company is prominently marked in red on the map, accompanied by extensive notes identifying conventions, administrative declarations, lines of demarcation, Free Trade Areas for the Maritime Zone and Arid Basin of the Congo, customs leased to Germany, Memorandums, and other instruments employed to carve up the region between 1884 and 1891.

The Berlin Conference of 1885 played a crucial role in these delineations. It set the stage for the "Scramble for Africa," during which most of the continent fell under colonial rule. Ethiopia and Liberia were the only two nations to retain independence during this period.



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Subsequent to the Berlin Conference, various treaties and agreements were signed to further define territorial boundaries and spheres of influence. Notable among them are agreements between Britain and France, whereby France acknowledged British control over Zanzibar and Nigeria, and Britain recognized French domination over Madagascar. Similar treaties were also forged between Britain and Germany, recognizing German East Africa and Uganda under German and British influence, respectively.

The 1890 British Ultimatum and subsequent Treaty of London in August of that year further defined the borders of Portuguese colonies, Mozambique and Angola, as Britain pressed Portugal to withdraw its forces from the land connecting these territories.

The British South Africa Company, highlighted in red on the map, was formed in 1889 following the amalgamation of Cecil Rhodes' Central Search Association and the London-based Exploring Company Ltd. With backing from influential figures like Baron Nathan de Rothschild, Lord Gifford, and George Cawston, and the receipt of a Royal Charter modeled on that of the British East India Company, the British South Africa Company aimed to promote colonization and economic exploitation across much of south-central Africa.

Cecil Rhodes' ambitious vision was to create a zone of British influence from "Cape to Cairo," but the lack of expected gold wealth in Mashonaland and other factors, including the acquisition of Katanga by the Congo Free State, limited the company's ability to realize this dream.

The map stands as a vivid representation of a complex and tumultuous period in African history. It shows not only the physical geography of the region but also the political maneuvering, negotiations, and ambitions that shaped the continent's destiny. The myriad of notes, agreements, and treaties referenced on the map reveal the intricate web of diplomacy and power struggles that characterized the late 19th-century division of Africa. It serves as a visual record of an era that laid the groundwork for present-day national boundaries and political configurations, and reflects the challenges and legacies of colonial rule.

Detailed Condition: