



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Colton's Africa (Southern Sheet.)

Stock#: 96361
Map Maker: Colton
Date: 1855
Place: New York
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 16 x 13 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Colton's Africa (Southern Sheet), published by G.W. and C.B. Colton & Co. in New York in 1855, delineates the southern regions of the African continent, including territories such as Cape Colony, Free States, Natal, Orange River, Trans Vaal Republic, Mozambique, Zanguebar, Makololo, and Ovaherero Damara. Strikingly, the map also designates a large area marked as "UNEXPLORED REGION" in what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

During the mid-19th century, the mapping of Africa was in a state of transformation as European explorers ventured into previously unknown regions. This particular map reflects the limited Western knowledge of the African interior at the time, combining well-charted coastal areas with vast inland territories labeled as unexplored.

The delineation of territories such as the Cape Colony, Free States, and others illustrates the political landscape influenced by European colonization, with borders reflecting the claims and divisions imposed by various colonial powers. The inclusion of indigenous territories like Makololo and Ovaherero Damara hints at the complex interactions between European and African societies during this period.

Colton's Africa (Southern Sheet) is an object of a time when the geography of Africa was still a subject of exploration and speculation. It stands as a testament to the changing perceptions of the continent, embodying both the scientific endeavor to chart the unknown and the political dynamics of an age marked by colonization and expansion. The map offers insights into how the African landscape was perceived, understood, and represented in the mid-19th century, reflecting a complex interplay of exploration,



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colonialism, and cartographic artistry.

Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color.