



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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Felis Onca, Linn. The Jaguar. Female

Stock#: 96488
Map Maker: Audubon
Date: 1846
Place: Philadelphia
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 24.5 x 19 inches
Price: \$ 9,500.00



Description:

Felis Onca, Linn. The Jaguar Female, lithographed by J. T. Bowen in Philadelphia in 1846, captures a detailed image of a female jaguar. Sketched from life by John James Audubon, the lithograph exquisitely portrays the jaguar in a posture of subtle aggression, emphasizing her teeth and the visible claws on her left foot. The backdrop of a copse of trees further illuminates the jaguar's natural habitat, suggesting this magnificent creature's grandeur and wild allure.

Audubon's related notes offer a comprehensive overview of the jaguar's appearance, behavior, and habitat, indicating its presence from Texas to parts of Central and South America. He references its locales near the Rio Grande and the Nucces and its extension to regions beyond El Paso. He notes the jaguar's absence from places like Oregon and California.

In the United States, the jaguar, historically, once roamed expansively across the Southwest and even further into states like California, Texas, and Louisiana. The territories along the U.S.-Mexico border, particularly areas near the Rio Grande, served as prime habitats for these apex predators. Over time, however, with westward expansion, habitat fragmentation, and targeted hunting due to livestock conflicts and fur trading, the jaguar's range dramatically receded. By the mid-20th century, sightings in the U.S. became exceedingly rare, and the jaguar was pushed predominantly into Central and South America. Efforts in recent decades focus on conservation and potential reintroduction, with sporadic sightings in Arizona and New Mexico offering hope for a tentative return of this majestic creature to its former range.

Detailed Condition:



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Original hand-color. Original lithograph on a sheet of imperial folio wove paper. Very faint toning at the edges.