



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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San Francisco [June] 1849.

Stock#: 97028
Map Maker: Firks / Schmidt Label & Litho.
Co.
Date: 1886
Place: San Francisco
Color: Color
Condition: VG
Size: 32 x 16 inches
Price: \$ 4,800.00



Description:

The Gold Rush Fleet at San Francisco in June of 1849.

This 1886 bird's-eye view of San Francisco, drawn by Henry Firks, updated by a "committee of pioneers", and lithographed by Max Schmidt, offers a detailed depiction of the city during a pivotal moment in its history. The view is notable for its detailed recording of ships in the harbor and key landmarks, reflecting the bustling activity of San Francisco at the height of the Gold Rush.

In June 1849, San Francisco was at the height of the Gold Rush. The discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill in 1848 had triggered a torrent of thousands of prospectors, merchants, and adventurers to flood into the region. This view captures the essence of San Francisco on the cusp of being transformed into a hub of commerce and migration. The detailed listing of ships, including American, British, Danish, and French vessels like the *Grey Eagle*, *Sea Queen*, and *Panama*, underscores the breadth of the Rush.

The view's attention to local landmarks, such as Parker's Hotel, City Hotel, and the Catholic Church, provides a snapshot of the city's nascent infrastructure. The presence of the U.S.S. *Warren* and the U.S.S. *Southampton* highlights the U.S. military's role in the region during this period.

Henry Firks' view offers insights into the urban and social landscape of San Francisco at the outset of the Gold Rush. It portrays a city in transition, grappling with rapid growth and the challenges of establishing a civic and economic infrastructure amid a flood of immigration and economic opportunity.

States

Firks's views were reissued repeatedly throughout the 19th century. According to Reps and Peters, this edition, with corrections by Sherman, Davis, and Vassault, was lithographed by Max Schmidt in 1886 after

Drawer Ref: Northern
California 2

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he had worked for G.T. Brown and Otto Schoering and then the Korbels Brothers.

Detailed Condition:

Three-stone color lithograph on 19th-century wove paper. The imprint lines, in three places directly under the image, have been effaced from this example. This example with some early manuscript amendments to the title and five of the key points, noting what the buildings had changed to.