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Map to Illustrate Route from Colesberg on the E. to Steinkopf, on the W. also Return Route, along the Banks of the Orange River toward the Bechuana Country.

Stock#: 97951
Map Maker: Arrowsmith & Moffat
Date: 1858
Place: London
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG+
Size: 17 x 7.7 inches
Price: \$ 495.00



Description:

African Exploration by David Livingstone's Father-in-Law.

Map to Illustrate Route from Colesberg to Steinkopf, authored by Robert Moffat (called Moffatt on the map) in 1858 and published in the *Journal of the Royal Geographical Society* by J. Murray, with engraving by John Arrowsmith, offers a detailed representation of the diverse landscape of South Africa, particularly along the banks of the Orange River towards the Bechuana Country. This notable map, produced at a time when the interior of the African continent was still relatively unknown to European audiences, elucidates Moffatt's extensive travels and his deep familiarity with the region.

The mid-1800s saw a surge of missionary and exploratory endeavors into the heart of the continent, seeking to shed light on its terrains, peoples, and potential. Moffatt, with his prolonged engagement with the Batswana people and his contributions to the spread of Christianity in Africa, was uniquely positioned to craft such a map. His personal journey, marked by resilience in the face of adversity and a commitment to his mission, finds its reflection in the map's detailed routes and annotations.

The distinction of this map, apart from its cartographic accuracy, lies in its embodiment of the juxtaposition between European exploration and the African landscape. The delineation of the route, stretching from Colesberg in the east to Steinkopf in the west and along the Orange River, captures not only the geographical intricacies but also the broader narrative of European engagement with Africa during the 19th century. In drawing attention to regions such as the Bechuana Country, Moffatt's map serves as a testament to his deep-rooted connections with South Africa, allowing readers a glimpse into a land that was at the forefront of exploration and missionary activity.

Robert Moffat



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Robert Moffat (1795-1883) was a pioneering Scottish Congregationalist missionary known for his dedicated service in Africa and his commitment to spreading Christianity among the Batswana people. Born in Ormiston, East Lothian, he initially pursued a career as a gardener in Cheshire. However, following his Methodist convictions, he joined the London Missionary Society in 1816 and embarked on a mission to South Africa. Once there, Moffat faced numerous adversities, often dealing with extreme scarcity of food and water. He is most renowned for translating the Bible and "The Pilgrim's Progress" into Setswana, though contemporary critiques highlight colonial biases in his work. Moffat's legacy is cemented not only in his missionary accomplishments but also through his daughter Mary, who married the famed explorer David Livingstone. By the end of his life, Moffat had earned recognition from the Royal Geographical Society and Edinburgh University and had even been presented to Queen Victoria. Today, he is commemorated through various means, including a memorial run in High Legh and the preservation of his printing press in Kuruman.

Detailed Condition:

Folding map. Original outlining.