



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

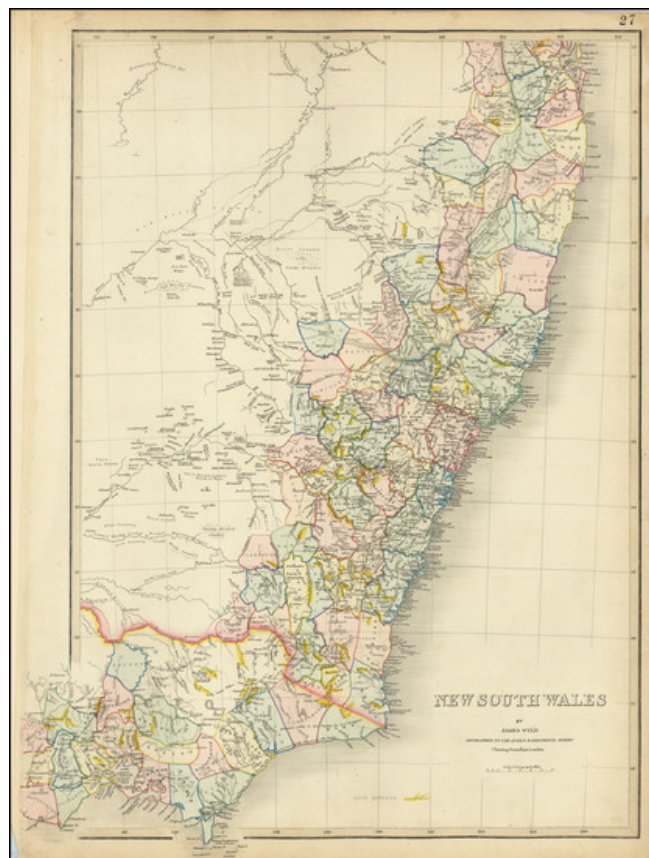
7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

New South Wales

Stock#: 98699
Map Maker: Wyld
Date: 1855 circa
Place: London
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG+
Size: 15.5 x 22.5 inches
Price: \$ 975.00



Description:

Showing Gold Discoveries in New South Wales

Rare early map of New South Wales, published by John Wyld, shortly after the discovery of gold in 1851.

The map highlights to areas where gold has been discovered along major rivers primarily in the newly formed Colony of Victoria, which had been established in 1851.

Gold in New South Wales

The discovery of gold in New South Wales was officially reported on May 12, 1851, by Edward Hargraves, a man who had previously been involved in the California Gold Rush. Hargraves, accompanied by John Lister and William Tom, found five specks of gold at Lewis Ponds Creek in Bathurst, setting off a rush that would fundamentally change Australia. While Hargraves is often credited with the discovery, it should be



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noted that Lister and Tom were instrumental in the actual finding of gold. Hargraves later claimed the government reward for the discovery, although public opinion often favored recognizing the contributions of his associates.

The early strikes were centered around the Bathurst region, followed by significant discoveries in the Blue Mountains and the Australian Alps. Towns such as Hill End, Gulgong, and Sofala sprang up around these goldfields, growing rapidly to accommodate the influx of prospectors. Rivers like the Turon, Macquarie, and Meroo became synonymous with gold panning, each marking its own chapter in the tale of New South Wales' mineral wealth.

The economic reverberations of these discoveries were immediate and profound. The population of New South Wales soared with the arrival of immigrants and prospectors seeking their fortune. The colony's population doubled from 200,000 in 1851 to 400,000 in 1852. Towns became cities, and previously uninhabited areas became bustling centers of activity. Sydney and Melbourne saw a surge in their economic fortunes, acting as critical supply centers for the burgeoning mining towns.

James Wyld (1812-87) was then one of the world's leading mapmakers, holding the title of official Geographer to Queen Victoria. The present map is one of Wyld's sequences of continually updated maps of Australia and her regions, and are of great historical importance for it played a definitive role in recording the rapid progress of exploration and development during Australia's formative years.

Detailed Condition: