



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
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(Mexican-Aztec Paintings) [Codex Cospi or Bologna] Aglio Mexican Antiquities. Facsimile of an Original Mexican Painting preserved in the Library of the Institute at Bologna, British M[useum]

Stock#: 102339
Map Maker: Shippard
Date: 1834 circa
Place: London
Color: Pen & Ink with Wash Color
Condition: See Description
Size: 16 x 10 inches
Price: \$ 4,500.00



Description:

An Aztec Tonalpohualli or Calendar Chart

A beautiful original watercolor by Captain William H. Shippard, after a page from the Codex Cospi, or Codex Bologna. The watercolor depicts a grid 7 by 13, with a total of 91 separate rectangular spaces each filled with at least one (sometimes two or more) glyphs representing either deity from the Aztec pantheon.

According to Elizabeth Hill Boone, the Codex Cospi is an Aztec almanac, with Tonalpohualli signs arranged in five rows of fifty-two signs, with mantic scenes above and below.

Tonalpohualli - Calendar as Spiritual Guide

The tonalpohualli, which translates to "count of days," is a significant component of the Mesoamerican calendrical system, particularly among the Aztec and other Nahua peoples. It is a 260-day ritual calendar consisting of 20 periods of 13 days, each represented by a unique combination of day signs and numerical coefficients. This calendar played a crucial role in the religious and ceremonial life of the Aztecs, dictating the timing of festivals, rituals, and other important events. The tonalpohualli is not only a method of measuring time but also a deeply spiritual tool, believed to influence the destiny of individuals based on their birth date within the calendar. Its significance extends beyond simple timekeeping, embodying the intricate interplay between cosmology, religion, and daily life in Aztec society.

Detailed Condition:



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Pen and ink drawing with watercolor. Sheet torn in lower right corner, minor loss to image border and one of the figures. Colors vivid and overall condition is otherwise very good.