



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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Map of South Australia, New South Wales, Van Diemen's Land and Settled Parts of Australia Respectfully dedicated to Major Sir T.L. Mitchell Kt. D.C.L. F.G.S. &c. Surveyor General of New South Wales . . .

Stock#: 36490
Map Maker: Wyld
Date: 1840 circa
Place: London
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG
Size: 37 x 23.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

A fascinating early map of the settled parts of Australia, featuring discoveries from recent expeditions into the interior.

Wyld's map depicts all of the settled areas of Australia as they appeared around 1840. The main map embraces the area of the modern states of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, while detailed insets feature Western Australia and Tasmania.

Most of the settlement is concentrated in two regions, the eighteen counties in New South Wales (which then included all of Queensland) centered around Sydney and the twenty-six counties centered around Perth in Western Australia. Southern Australia is the only state with a defined border, however, Victoria remains unorganized territory called 'Australia Felix', shown more than a decade before the gold rush. Van Diemen's Land (later Tasmania), which is detailed in a large inset, shows development in its westerns regions with nine counties having been laid out.

By this time, the coastlines of the subcontinent were well defined following the explorations of Matthew Flinders and others, however, a majority of the interior remained a complete enigma. Importantly the map depicts the recent discoveries of several explorers, especially with respect to the conspicuous detail in the interior of what is now Victoria and the far southern part of New South Wales.

On various treks from 1824 to 1828, Hamilton Hume, discovered the overland route from Sydney to Port Philipp (the future site of Melbourne), as well as the Darling River, the Murray River's longest tributary. Knowledge of the Murray Basin and surrounding regions was expanded upon by the expeditions of Charles



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Sturt from 1828 to 1830 and Sir Thomas Mitchell from 1831 to 1836. Mitchell had previously been responsible for the mapping of the settled regions of New South Wales as shown on this map, an achievement for which he received his knighthood. Fittingly, the present map is dedicated to Mitchell.

Additionally, the map includes insets of the Sydney Harbor and the town of Adelaide (founded only in December 1836), with a smaller inset of the Port of Victoria (which was added on editions of the map from 1840 onwards).

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:

Dissected, with linen tape supporting the dissected folds, as issued.