



## Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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### Geographical, Statistical and Historical Map of The District of Columbia

**Stock#:** 49996  
**Map Maker:** Carey & Lea  
**Date:** 1823  
**Place:** Philadelphia  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 20.5 x 16.5 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



#### Description:

One of the earliest obtainable maps of the District of Columbia to appear in a commercial atlas.

Includes a detailed plan of Washington DC, Georgetown and Alexandria and a number of roads and rivers in the District. Muds Tavern is shown just outside the District on the Fredericktown Turnpike. Carey & Lea's Atlas is highly prized not only for its cartographic information but the marvelous information about each of the states and territories included. The atlas was issued in 6 editions in English, French & German between 1822 and 1827.

#### Carey & Lea

Henry Charles Carey (1793-1879) was the son of Mathew Carey, who was one of the most important figures in early American map publishing. He and Isaac Lea (1792-1886), took Mathew Carey's publishing firm into the 1820s and '30s. Madeline Stern called Carey & Lea the first American "publisher in the modern sense". They were exceptionally successful, not just with their atlas, which paved the way for American commercial cartography in the 19th century, but also with literature and reference works, such as *The Encyclopedia Americana*.

The firm became M. Carey & Sons upon being joined by Isaac, in 1821 or '22, when Isaac married Mathew's daughter Frances Ann Carey (1799-1873). Matthew Carey retired in 1824 (or '25), but even before that, it seems that the younger partners were publishing under exclusively their own names. Shortly after the elder Carey's retirement, the firm officially became H. C. Carey & I. Lea. Matthew's



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younger son, Edward L. Carey, joined the firm in the mid-1820s and the firm then became Carey, Lea & Carey. In 1829, Edward left the partnership. In 1833, William Blanchard joined the firm and they were renamed Carey, Lea & Blanchard.

Both Carey and Lea had impressive careers in addition to their publishing; Lea as a natural historian, and Carey as an economist, author, and advisor to President Abraham Lincoln.

### **A Complete Historical, Chronological, and Geographical American Atlas (1823)**

This map comes from Carey & Lea's *A Complete Historical, Chronological, and Geographical American Atlas*. The Carey and Lea Atlas, as it is often called, was one of the most important early atlases, produced in any significant number, in America. It dedicated maps to each state, and it is noteworthy for its inclusion of a groundbreaking map of the American Plains, which includes information from Stephen H. Long.

Carey & Lea's *Atlas* is highly prized not only for its cartographic information but the marvelous information about each of the states and territories that are included. The atlas was issued in 6 editions in English, French & German between 1822 and 1827.

Fielding Lucas Jr. was the primary engraver on the atlas, and he carried over considerable experience from his own atlases published in the roughly five years prior.

### **Detailed Condition:**

Fold split and discoloration at centerfold