



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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A Pictorial Map of that portion of New York City known as Manhattan also showing parts of the Bronx . . .

Stock#: 72170
Map Maker: Chase
Date: 1939
Place: Winchester, MA
Color: Color
Condition: VG
Size: 26.5 x 19.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine example of Ernest Dudley Chase's whimsical map of Manhattan and the Bronx.

The map includes nearly 100 individual vignettes of New York City buildings and other scenes, along with dozens more smaller vignettes within the map.

Chase probably was inspired by Daniel K. Wallingford's popular maps *A New Yorker's Idea of the United States of America*, and *A Bostonian's Idea of the United States of America*, both of which were first published around 1936 and redraw the U.S. with a similar comic premise. The Harvard University Map Collection owns a copy of this map.

Ernest Dudley Chase was one of the most prolific and renowned pictorial map artists of the 20th century, producing about 50 maps published from the 1930s to the 1960s. Chase's maps cover a wide assortment of



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locations and topics. The biographical pamphlet *A Meticulous Maker of Maps* describes Chase's "passion for perfection," executing the detailed pictures under a magnifying glass "dot by dot, with tiny pens."

Ernest Dudley Chase was born in Lowell, Massachusetts and began his career as a graphic artist. He established his own greeting card company, which he sold to Rust Craft Publishers in 1920. He authored *The Romance of Greeting Cards*, the first complete history of the medium, published in 1926, with a revised edition in 1956.

Chase began drawing maps at age 49, which he self-published from his home in Winchester, Massachusetts.

Chase donated many examples of his maps to the Harvard University Map Collection, Pusey Library, which featured them in the exhibition "The Pictorial Maps of Ernest Dudley Chase" from February to April 2003. According to the curators of the exhibit, Chase "designed pictorial maps ranging in scale from his own hometown to global themes of navigation, exploration, communication, and world peace. He could be alternately whimsical, didactic, and subtly allusive--often on the same map." In 2009, the State Library of Massachusetts presented the exhibition "Ernest Dudley Chase: A Worldview in Maps," showcasing his wide variety of works.

Detailed Condition:

Light band of toning at the top of the map.