



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## Map of the United States By J.H. Young . . . 1831 (The Map That Launched The Samuel Augustus Mitchell Dynasty)

**Stock#:** 94790  
**Map Maker:** Mitchell  
**Date:** 1831  
**Place:** Philadelphia  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 47 x 38.25 inches  
**Price:** \$ 4,500.00



### Description:

#### *The Map That Launched The Mitchell Map Publishing Dynasty*

Rare first state of Samuel Augustus Mitchell's first separately published map, one of the great wall maps of the United States from this pivotal period.

Mitchell's wall map of the United States was the first cartographic production of the Mitchell family, which continued issuing maps and atlases under the name of the firm's patriarch, and his son Samuel Augustus Mitchell Jr., until the last decade of the 19th Century, a run of some 60 years.

Mitchell's map of the United States represented a firm leap forward in the modernity of American wall maps. Engraved with precision in Philadelphia and reflecting a technical expertise not present in earlier decades of American map engravers, the details of the map is compelling. Mitchell also adds, for the first time on American wall maps, a series of inset maps of the major transportation hubs and metropolitan



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regions of the United States, including"

- Vicinity of Albany
- Vicinity of the Falls of Niagara
- Vicinity of Boston
- Vicinity of New York
- Vicinity of Philadelphia
- Vicinity of Baltimore and Washington
- Vicinity of Charleston
- Vicinity of N. Orleans

At the bottom right, a large inset map of North America shows Oregon Territory and Missouri Territory, the western region which were just then entering the consciousness of American westward expansion. Texas is named in the inset map five years before its Independence, with the towns of Galveston and S. Felipe de Austin reflecting the opening salvo of immigration from the US.

On the primary map Michigan Territory extends into what is today Wisconsin and Minnesota, which are labeled as "attached to Michigan." In the lower-left corner, there are comparative charts of mountains and rivers, as well as a statistical table for the states and territories of the United States.

#### **Context: Mitchell's Career**

Mitchell's first cartographic production was a re-issue of Finley's *American Atlas* in 1831, along with pocket maps from the *Atlas*. This first original map, engraved by J.H. Young, appeared in both case map and wall map format.

The first edition of this map was also published in 1831 and was updated.

#### **States of the Map**

The present example is the first state of the map, with subsequent editions bearing the date in the title.

To our knowledge, comprehensive cataloging of the states of this map has not yet been accomplished. There is significant attention to the 1831 first edition (see our examples or Rumsey 2723), oftentimes with the commentary noting the lack of delineated counties as the differentiating factor between the first state and those that follow. This is probably because Ristow (page 309), notes the 1834 state in which that information has been added.



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**Map of the United States By J.H. Young . . . 1831 (The Map That Launched The Samuel Augustus Mitchell Dynasty)**

**Rarity**

The first state of the map is scarce on the market.

**Detailed Condition:**

Wall map, with silked edges. Toned and soiled, with remnants of old varnish, but in all a nice example.