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Map of North America From The Latest Authorities . . . 1846

Stock#: 96495
Map Maker: Colton / Atwood
Date: 1846
Place: New York
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 22 x 24.25 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Extremely rare first state of J.H. Colton's rare separately published map of North America, which would later become famous during the California Gold Rush.

First issued in 1846, this map would serve as the foundation for one of Colton's most important and influential maps, the 1849 [*Map of the United States, The British Provinces, Mexico &c. Showing the Routes of the U.S. Mail Steam Packets to California and a Plan of the Gold Region . . .*](#), which Streeter would describe as "one of the rarest California Gold Rush maps."

The present map was likely created following the Oregon Treaty of 1846, which established the boundary between the United States and Canada, which had been left unresolved since the 1818. The map also illustrated a massive "Stovepipe" configuration of the newly annexed Texas, prior to the Compromise of 1850 which would establish its boundaries. The map includes the iconic Pyramid Lake vignette, reflecting Charles C. Fremont's discovery of the lake in 1844, during one of his four exploring expeditions to the west, which would unravel the mysteries of America's "Great American Desert."

The present example extends north to include all of Russian Territory. The subsequent maps would not include the entire printing plate, with Colton adding an inset map of the California Gold regions at the right and a second inset map of the route around South America on the right side. Beginning in 1849,



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Colton would replace the dotted line showing Fremont's route to the Great Salt Lake region with a solid line showing the route to California, which would be highlighted in Blue for '49ers using the map as guide map to the gold regions.

The map of North America would be issued again as an uncolored pocket map in 1852, with a portion of the top cut off and the Territorial borders updated.

Rarity

The map is extremely rare. OCLC locates 1 example (Johns Hopkins University).

We note only the example offered by High Ridge Books in 2011 (\$4500).

Detailed Condition:

Original hand coloring (possibly retouched). Mounted as a wall map with wood dowels, linen and selvage renewed. Minor soiling, as illustrated.