



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman  
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**Map of the Gold Regions of California. Showing the Routes via Chagres and Panama, Cape Horn &c.**

**Stock#:** 98779  
**Map Maker:** Ensign & Thayer  
**Date:** 1849  
**Place:** New York  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 19 x 24 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



**Description:**

***Broadside & Map Promoting The Gold Regions and Routes to California in 1849***

Striking example of Ensign & Thayer's rare promotional broadside map showing the routes from the east coast to the Gold Regions of California.

The broadside consists of a large map of Upper California, a second map of America showing the various water routes to the Gold Regions via Panama, Cape Horn. A route across Mexico between Vera Cruz and Mazatlan, is described as "the cheapest, quickest and safest," although to "prevent the danger of being attacked by robbers through Mexico, persons should go in parties of 40 to 50 or more."

The broadside includes a fantastic overview of the Gold Regions, including the following brief history, "the



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### **Map of the Gold Regions of California. Showing the Routes via Chagres and Panama, Cape Horn &c.**

Gold mines of California were known to have existed in the 16th Century, for as early as 1578 . . . the Jesuits were in possession of certain tracts which they knew to be of more than ordinary value . . ." There is a discussion of the geographical, topographical and other features of the Gold Region, "the whole valley abounds with wild cattle, horses, elk, deer, antelopes, grizzly bears, partridges, water fowl, salmon, &c." It concludes with a glowing report of the quality and quantity of gold to be found.

While a number of early promotional maps for the Gold Regions survive, none captures the essence of the rush better than Ensign & Thayer's work. Printed on thin paper, it was known in two editions, one with the publisher's name and one without, the latter having a thinner ornamental border. The thin bordered edition is believed to have been bound into a few examples of T.J. Farnham's important work on California, although very few copies contain the map.

The present example is the thick bordered edition, by far the rarer of the two, which was likely only used as a promotional broadside.

#### **Rarity**

The map is very rare on the market.

Only 1 example of the map has appeared at auction since the Streeter Sale in 1968.

This is the first example of the "thick border" edition we have offered for sale (1992-2023).

#### **Detailed Condition:**

Original hand-color. Laid on original linen. Toning and minor water staining.