



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

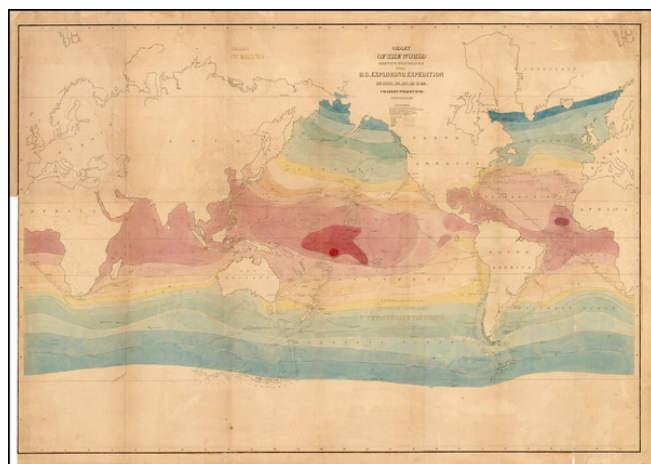
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Chart of the World Shewing the Tracks of the U.S. Exploring Expedition in 1838, 39, 40, 41 & 42. . . .

Stock#: 21910
Map Maker: Wilkes
Date: 1845
Place: Philadelphia
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 34 x 24 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

A good example of the general chart of the World, illustrating the rare large format edition of the official account of Wilkes Expedition.

Charles Wilkes led an important early American exploring expedition conducted almost exclusively at sea. The expedition had numerous accomplishments to its credit, including mapping nearly three hundred islands, a thorough exploration of the American Northwest Coast, and establishing the true nature of Antarctica as a continent. Other scientific works arising from the voyage followed in later years.

Despite the problems caused by Wilkes's infamous temper, the expedition was a highly successful circumnavigation. "The United States equivalent to the voyages of James Cook, Jean François Galaup de Lapérouse, Alejandro Malaspina, and Ivan Fedorovich Kruzenshtern for England, France, Spain, and Russia, and the maritime equivalent of Lewis and Clark" (W. Michael Mathes).

The large format editions of Wilkes' 1845 Narrative are quite rare. The atlas was printed in an edition of 150 copies supplied to Wilkes for presentation and sale and an official edition of 1844, which was printed in 100 copies, of which 25 were destroyed by fire.

Detailed Condition:

Minor offsetting and some fold weakness, as usual. Margin trimmed at lower left, as issued, for inclusion in Atlas volume.