



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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Cairo Illinois 1867.

Stock#: 33517
Map Maker: Ruger
Date: 1867
Place: Chicago
Color: Color
Condition: VG
Size: 29 x 21 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare early birdseye view of Cairo, Illinois, by Albert Ruger, the first American Bird's Eye View artist, published in Chicago by the Chicago Lithographing Co.

The view shows Cairo from the East and includes steamboats on the Ohio River, with the town in the middle and the Mississippi River in the background. Located at the confluence of the Ohio River and the Mississippi River.

The view is very rare. OCLC locates only the Library of Congress, Cornell University and Penn State copies.

Albert Ruger was the first of the bird's eye artists active in America. As noted by the Library of Congress:

Albert Ruger was the first to achieve success as a panoramic artist. The collections of the Library's Geography and Map Division contain 213 city maps drawn or published by Ruger or by Ruger & Stoner. The majority came from Ruger's personal collection, which the Library purchased in 1941 from John Ramsey of Canton, Ohio. Before this accession, there were only four Ruger city plans in the Geography and Map Division. Born in Prussia in 1829, Ruger emigrated to the United States and worked initially as a mason. While serving with the Ohio Volunteers during the Civil War, he drew views of Union campsites, among them Camp Chase in Ohio and Stephenson's Depot in Virginia. He continued to draw after the war, and his prints include a famous lithograph of Lincoln's funeral car passing the statehouse in Columbus, Ohio.

By 1866, Ruger had settled in Battle Creek, Michigan, where he began his prolific panoramic mapping



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career by sketching Michigan cities. Full descriptions of many Ruger views of Michigan cities are contained in John Cumming's A Preliminary Checklist of 19th Century Lithographs of Michigan Cities and Towns. Urban communities in some twenty-two states and Canada, ranging from New Hampshire to Minnesota and south to Georgia and Alabama, were sketched by Ruger. He continued his activity into the 1890s, moving his business to Chicago, Madison, and St. Louis as he sought new markets. In the late 1860s, Ruger formed a partnership with J. J. Stoner of Madison, Wisconsin, and together they published numerous city panoramas. Ruger was particularly productive during the 1860s; in 1869 alone, he produced more than sixty panoramic maps. In addition to city plans, he drew views of university campuses, among them Notre Dame, Shurtleff College, and the University of Michigan. Albert Ruger died in Akron, Ohio, on November 12, 1899.

Cairo was founded in 1837 by the Cairo City & Canal Company and incorporated in 1858. Growth of the town accelerated with the arrival of the Illinois Central Railroad in the 1850s. Because of its strategic location at the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, the town grew as a steamboat port. In 1872 a US Customs House and Post Office were opened and with the booming steamboat and railroad industry, the town grew to be an important hub of industry.

Detailed Condition:

View expertly remargined on the left and right sides. Minor repaired tear at the upper left margin and two minor restorations along the left and right sides of the image.