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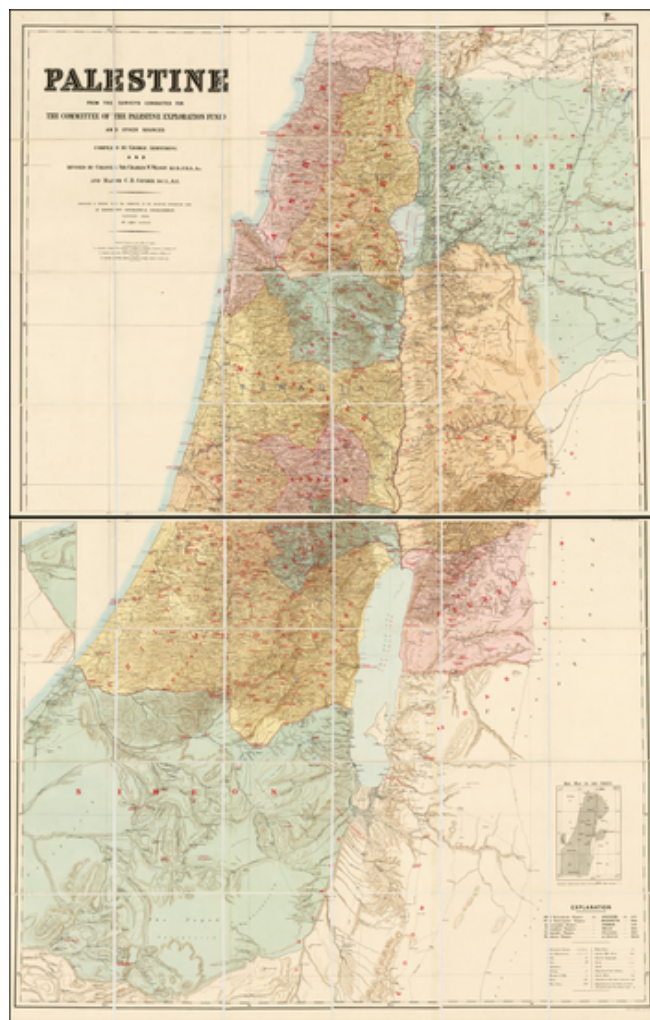
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Palestine from the Surveys Conducted for the Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund (P.E.F.) and Other Sources. Compiled by George Armstrong and revised by Colonel Sir Charles W. Wilson K. C. B., F. R. S. and Major C. R. Conder, D. C. L., R. E. . . . 1890

Stock#: 34847
Map Maker: Armstrong & Wilson
Date: 1890
Place: London
Color: Color
Condition: VG+
Size: 100 x 78 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The rare 'Old & New Testament Edition' of Claude Conder, Charles Wilson and Horatio Kitchener's map, *Palestine from the Surveys conducted for the Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund*, published by Stanford's Geographical Establishment.

This finely executed map represented the culmination of almost two decades of scientific surveying in what is now Israel, Jordan and Lebanon conducted by the Palestine Exploration Fund. Combining their



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surveys of Western Palestine (Israel and Lebanon) and Eastern Palestine (Jordan) for the first time, the Fund published a map of all of Palestine, which was issued in two distinct formats, one being a 'Modern Edition' and an 'Old & New Testament Edition,' which is the example we offer here. The Modern Edition was an empirical military topographical map, while the Old & New Testament edition featured all of the details present on the former, but augmented with extensive historical information. Issued in 12 sheets, it features a large scale of 3/8 of an inch to 1 mile, enlivened with fine chromolithographic color.

The map is the first scientific topographical map to embrace all of Palestine on both sides of the Jordan River, with the present 'Old & New Testament edition' featuring extensive information on the ancient history of Israel. One will immediately notice that traditional territories of the Twelve Tribes of Ancient Israel; Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph and Benjamin, which are distinguished on the map in brilliant color. All major features of the landscape are depicted in exacting detail, including rivers, wadis, the Dead Sea, the Sea of Galilee, while the hills and mountains are expressed in finely shaded relief. All of the modern settlements are labeled, however, a fascinating feature of the map is that it also includes the ancient names of villages and other historically important locations. Employing color-coding and different fonts, the map features the different place names as they relate to the Old Testament, New Testament, Apocrypha (storied/unconfirmed names), Josephus (as contained in the writings of Flavius Josephus, 37-100 AD, the great Alexandrine Jewish chronicler), and the Talmud.

The story behind the creation of the map is most fascinating. In 1872, Claude R. Conder was selected by the Palestine Exploration Fund to head a scientific survey of Western Palestine (central and northern Israel and southern Lebanon). An ambitious endeavor, it aimed to map all of this mountainous region to advanced trigonometric standards, with maps to be published at a large scale of 1 mile to 1 inch, the precise same criteria as employed by the Ordnance Survey of England.

Conder was assisted by the young Lt. Horatio Kitchener who would later go on to fame as head of the British Army. Work began in July 1872, and while the party endured difficult and dangerous conditions, it persevered in ensuring that the quality of their surveys met with the highest standards. In 1875, Conder was wounded following an attack by brigands near Safed and had to return to England, leaving the project to be finished by Kitchener. Their fine map, which embraced over 6,000 square miles of surveys, was published as a *Map of Western Palestine* (1878), and was issued in 26 sheets. The map was followed by an eight-volume series of text (1881-5), detailing the region's topography and toponymy, as well as the local flora and fauna.

In 1881 Conder returned to the field, with the objective of mapping Eastern Palestine (Jordan). His party



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included the skilled military surveyors A. M. Mantell, T. Black and G. Armstrong, and succeeded in mapping around 500 square miles of territory between the Dead Sea and Amman. However, Conder had to suddenly cease the survey when members of his team were called for military service elsewhere. Their map, *Survey of Eastern Palestine* was published at some point in the 1880s, although the precise dating of this map is still a subject of debate. The *Memoir* of the expedition was published in 1889.

As a culmination of the Fund's mapping programs, in 1890 it published the Palestine from the Surveys conducted for the Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund in both its 'Modern' and 'Old & New Testament' editions. The present map, being an impressive and unique combination of modern science and historical inquiry perfectly fitted the mandate of the Palestine Exploration Fund (PEF). A British learned society, it was founded in 1865 by a group of Anglican luminaries and Oriental scholars "for the purpose of investigating the Archaeology, Geography, manners, customs and culture, Geology and Natural History of the Holy Land." While their pursuit was to be an "inductive inquiry" and was to avoid "controversy", their operations and personnel were intimately linked to the British Army. Indeed, it was always pretty clear that the Fund was both an academic institution and vehicle for military intelligence gathering. In any event, the PEF's archeological and surveying projects were instrumental in both illuminating the secrets of the Holy Land and bringing geographical knowledge of the region into the modern era.

The surveyors who were responsible for the present map were especially eventful and industrious. Claude Reignier Conder (1848-1910) was trained as military engineer at the Woolwich Military Academy and became fluent in Arabic. He went to school with Horatio Kitchener, and asked him to join his first expedition to Palestine. Kitchener (1850-1916) later rose to become the 1st Earl Kitchener and a Field Marshal, as well as the Minister of War in the early days of the World War I. Charles Wilson (1836-1905) was a military engineer and archeologist who famously discovered 'Wilson's Arch' in Jerusalem. He previously conducted military surveys of the Sinai Peninsula (1869-72), and while never a member of Conder's surveying parties, he was instrumental in assisting the Palestine surveys to completion. George Armstrong also played a key role in compiling the PEF's maps and editing the textual publications.

The present map is far rarer than the *Map of Western Palestine*, this being the first copy we have ever seen on the market. This example also survives in remarkably fine condition for a large folding map.

Detailed Condition:

Dissected and laid on linen, with original slipcase.