



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

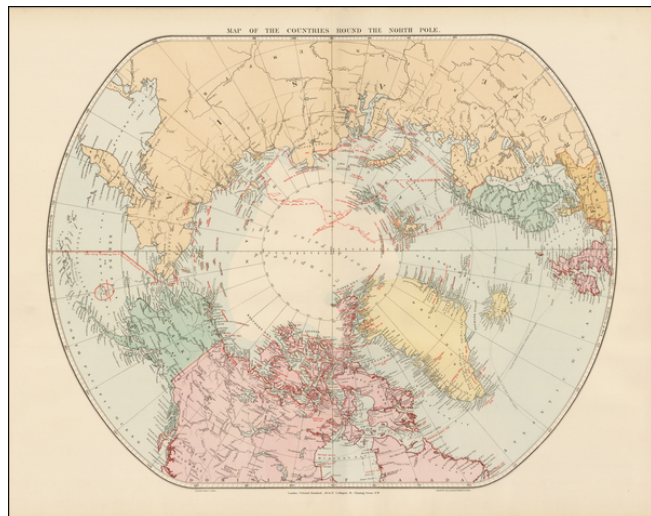
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Map of the Countries Round the North Pole (with Nansen Tracks and Jackson Tracks)

Stock#: 40193
Map Maker: Stanford
Date: 1898 circa
Place: London
Color: Color
Condition: Fine
Size: 25 x 20 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Scarce and recently updated example of Edward Stanford's map depicting the entire Arctic Region, featuring the furthest-most points reached by numerous exploring expeditions.

This fascinating map embraces the entire Arctic regions of the World, within a unique ovoid presentation. Centered on the North Pole, it variously extends as far south as 50 to 55 degrees North. All countries are distinguished by their own colors, and major geographic and oceanic features are labeled.

Most interestingly, this example includes significantly revised information showing the Nansen Expedition (1894-1896) and Jackson Expedition (1894-1897). Prior examples of this map issued in the two preceeding years featured a line labelled "The Probable drift of Nansen 1894-1896" crossing the immediate location of the Geographical North Pole. It reflected the information based on conjecture, as Nansen had been lost for several years and presumed dead, until he was discovered and rescued by Jackson. This example of the map shows a far more detailed depiction of Nansen's voyage and is no longer shown as "probable," but in fact derives from Nansen's reports and is therefore far more accurate.

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The Norwegian explorer Fridtjof Nansen endeavored an expedition to reach the North Pole, aboard the ship Fram, from 1893 to 1896. While the Fram did in fact "drift" towards the Pole, Nansen only claimed to have reached 86 °14' North (in 1894) then the furthestmost point North ever reached. While Robert Peary claimed (dubiously) to have reached the Pole in 1909, it was only in 1928 that Roald Admundsen could make the undisputed claim to have been the first to reach the North Pole.

The Jackson 1894-1897 tracks relates to Frederick George Jackson, the British Arctic explorer, who achieved fame for his discovery of Nansen, after Nansen had gone lost on his expedition. Jackson made his first Arctic expedition 1886-87. In 1893, he crossed Siberia by sled. Following his return, he was given the command of the Jackson-Harmsworth Arctic expedition (1894-1897). Sponsored by the Royal Geographical Society, this expedition had for its objective the general exploration of Franz Josef Land. During this expedition, Jackson and his men were contacted on June 17, 1896 by the Norwegian arctic explorer Fridtjof Nansen and his companion Hjalmar Johansen. They had not been heard of for three years and were presumed dead, and were now trying to reach Spitsbergen by kayak. Jackson informed him that they were in fact on Franz Josef Land, and with Jackson's help, Nansen and Johansen were able to return home. The Jackson-Harmsworth expedition proved that Franz Josef Land is nothing more than an archipelago of small islands.

Additionally, the American portion of the map, at the Bering Sea, is labelled with information on the seasonal fishing restrictions. The amount of information featured on the map is truly extraordinary, and is unrivalled by any Arctic map of comparable size.

The map was issued around 1898 by Edward Stanford, then Britain's leading map publisher, in an effort to capitalize on the great contemporary interest in Polar expeditions, seen as the 'last frontier' in global exploration. Stanford had good connections with academic institutions such as the Royal Geographical Society and government bodies such as the Admiralty, so was always able to gain the most accurate information. The present map was one of Stanford's series of progressively updated maps of the Arctic Regions, the first of which was published around 1875, and the last issued in the 1930s.

This map is scarce, as are all other issues of Stanford's Arctic series. We are aware of only a single other example of this edition appearing in dealers' catalogs during the last 25 years.



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Detailed Condition: