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Engelsche Noordpool-Expeditie 1875-1876

Stock#: 47542
Map Maker: Tijdschrift Aardrijkskundig,
Genootschap
Date: 1877 circa
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Color
Condition: VG+
Size: 17.5 x 18 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Detailed map illustrating the British Arctic Expedition of 1875-1876.

The British Arctic Expedition of 1875-1876, led by Sir George Strong Nares, was sent by the British Admiralty to attempt to reach the North Pole via Smith Sound. Two ships, *HMS Alert* and *HMS Discovery* (captained by Henry Frederick Stephenson), sailed from Portsmouth on May 29, 1875. Although the expedition failed to reach the North Pole, the coasts of Greenland and Ellesmere Island were extensively explored and large amounts of scientific data were collected.

On this expedition, Nares became the first explorer to take his ships all the way north through the channel between Greenland and Ellesmere Island (now named Nares Strait in his honor) to the Lincoln Sea. Up to this time, it had been a popular theory that this route would lead to the supposed Open Polar Sea, an ice-free region surrounding the pole, but Nares found only a wasteland of ice.

As illustrated on the map, a sledging party under Commander Albert Hastings Markham, set a new record for reaching the Farthest North of 83° 20' 26"N, but overall the expedition was a near-disaster. The men suffered badly from scurvy and were hampered by inappropriate clothing and equipment. Realizing that his men could not survive another winter in the ice, Nares hastily retreated southward with both his ships, in the summer of 1876.



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British Admiralty naval personnel and topographers, among them Thomas Mitchell, did succeed in documenting, by photograph, the Northern indigenous peoples and landscapes of what would become Canada's Northwest Territories and, later, Nunavut.

The expedition included Petty Officer, Adam Ayles, after whom both the Ayles Ice Shelf and Mount Ayles are named. Other features named after the expedition include the Markham Ice Shelf, Nares Strait and Alert, Nunavut, the most northerly permanently inhabited place on earth. Pelham Aldrich was a lieutenant on the expedition and commanded the Western Sledge Party to Ellesmere Island, where Cape Aldrich was named in his honor.

The map appeared in *Tijdschrift Aardrijkskundig, Genootschap* (Magazine of the Geographical Society), published by C. F. Stemler, in Amsterdam in April 1877.

Detailed Condition: