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The Island and Kingdom of Sicily, According to the best Observations, & Improved; from the Map, of the Baron de Schmettau.

Stock#: 49112
Map Maker: Laurie & Whittle
Date: 1794
Place: London
Color:
Condition: VG
Size: 19 x 27 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Finely detailed map of Sicily by Robert Mylne, which appeared in Laurie & Whittle atlases in the 1790s.

Mylne's map is a fine compilation of the most important cartographical sources of the time, including the maps of Austrian General Samuel von Schmettau and French cartographer Jean Baptiste Bourguignon d'Anville. The map shows the three provinces and the county of Modica. Details include roads, inns, watch towers, forests, fortified towns, and lava fields. Particular attention is paid to Mount Etna with areas denoted as cultivated, wooded, or naked.

The text box at the bottom right includes a detailed explanation of the map and statistical information about Sicily, along with a key translating the Italian nomenclature to English.

Robert Mylne, a Scottish architect and civil engineer, who was best known for his design for Blackfriars Bridge in London. Mylne studied architecture under the direction of Giovanni Battista Piranesi in Rome.

In the spring of 1757, Mylne accompanied the diplomat Richard Phelps, and antiquarian Matthew Nulty, on a tour of Sicily where he undertook the preparation of this map to pay for his studies.

Laurie & Whittle

Robert Laurie (ca. 1755-1836) and James Whittle (1757-1818) formed their Fleet Street, London-based firm upon the 1794 death of their employer Robert Sayer, himself one of the dominant print and mapmakers of the last half of the 18th century.



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Laurie & Whittle started managing Sayer's business as early as 1787. They took over all managerial duties when Sayer's health flagged in 1792, and they changed the imprint in 1794 upon his death. Sayer left the two a 21-year lease on the shop (at £100 a year) and on Sayer's Bolt Court premises, as well as an option to acquire stock and equipment at a preferential price of £5,000 payable over three years.

Robert Laurie retired from the firm in 1812, and his role was assumed by his son, Richard Holmes Laurie (1777-1858). The younger Laurie worked with James Whittle until the latter died in 1818. After R. H. Laurie died in 1858, Alexander George Findlay, FRGS (1812-1875) purchased the firm from his daughters. The firm continues today under another name, specializing in yachting charts.

Laurie & Whittle were prolific print and map publishers, and throughout their careers, they produced numerous very important and rare works. They carried on Robert Sayer's atlas business and were responsible for editions of *The Complete East-India Pilot* and *The American Atlas*.

A General Atlas, describing the Whole Universe [1797]

This map comes from Thomas Kitchin's *A General Atlas*. This atlas was conceived of by Thomas Jefferys in the 1760s. Following Jefferys' bankruptcy in 1766, the atlas was first completed by Robert Sayer in 1773. This was Robert Sayer's first terrestrial atlas. From 1794 the atlas was published by his successors Laurie & Whittle. Later editions tend to be more desirable. Thomas Kitchin's name appears on title pages even after his death in 1784. The maps are after a variety of makers such as d'Anville, Roberts, Dunn, Rocque, Delarochette, Rennell, Zannoni, Dury, Cook, Vancouver, Perouse and others.

This map is from the 1797 edition of the atlas. This atlas was later expanded and replaced by Laurie & Whittle's *A New Universal Atlas*.

Detailed Condition:

Light offsetting. Old outline hand-color.