



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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A Map Shewing the extent of the Susquehanna Country and its Practicable Canal Routes as designated by the Susquehanna Commissioners (with Report By The Maryland Commissioners on A Proposed Canal From Baltimore To Conewago)

Stock#: 55319jc
Map Maker: Lucas Jr.
Date: 1823
Place: Baltimore
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 12 x 10.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Connecting Baltimore to Pittsburg By Water

Rare folding map of Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey, illustrating the work of the Commissioners appointed in December 1822 to survey the route of a Canal which would connect the Susquehanna River with the City of Baltimore.

Published by Fielding Lucas Jr. in Baltimore, this rare map illustrates at its center the proposed Canal to Baltimore, along with the broader region north to Lake Ontario and Lake Erie and west to Ohio. Not only is the primary canal shown, two other shorter canals are shown further west, to illustrate the prospects for connecting Pittsburg and Baltimore via the Juniata River. A table at the top left explains the distances of the canals illustrated on the map.

The map illustrates not only the canals, but the principal roads in the region, as a means of illustrating to legislators the current system of wagon roads over which commerce was flowing to Baltimore. The competing Canal, which connected the headwaters of Chesapeake Bay and Delaware Bay are also shown, illustrating the competitive advantage which Philadelphia would gain and which would bypass Baltimore. Further north, the "Grand Canal of New York" is shown.



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Routes as designated by the Susquehanna Commissioners (with Report By The
Maryland Commissioners on A Proposed Canal From Baltimore To Conewago)**

The map is incorporated into a rare pamphlet, entitled *Report By The Maryland Commissioners on A Proposed Canal From Baltimore To Conewago*, published in Baltimore by Fielding Lucas Jr. The commissions work and this map were done two years before the Chesapeake-Delaware Canal was started and five years before work began on the Chesapeake and Potomac Canal, during a period of intense interest in canal building.

Interest in the creation of a Canal to service Baltimore dates to back to 1783, when the General Assembly of Maryland granted a charter "The Proprietors of the Susquehanna Canal" to build a canal from tide water to Love Island, just south of the Pennsylvania-Maryland border. Construction was completed in 1803, but the venture failed to gain support from Pennsylvania and was a commercial failure. In the early 1820s, several new canal ventures, including the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and the Potomac Canal threatened to hurt Baltimore's commercial interests. As a result, a new venture on the Susquehanna was launched in 1822, to connect the Susquehanna to Baltimore, as described in this pamphlet.

Rarity

The map and pamphlet are rare. This is the first example we have seen on the market.

The last example of the pamphlet to appear in a dealer catalog was Goodspeed's in 1960. The last example at auction was Anderson Galleries in 1914.

Detailed Condition:

Several fold splits, expertly repaired on verso.