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**Outlines of the Countries Between Delhi and Constantinople By A. Arrowsmith 1814.
Additions to 1816.**

Stock#: 60677
Map Maker: Arrowsmith
Date: 1816
Place: London
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG
Size: 112 x 58.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Foreshadowing The Great Game -- A Monumental Map of The Region Between Istanbul and Delhi

Finely executed wall map, extending from Istanbul to China, and from the eastern Mediterranean to the Himalayas, respectively, including Egypt, northern Saudi Arabia, the Levant, Georgia and Armenia, Persia, western China, and northern India, published in London by Aaron Arrowsmith.

The map was intended as an exhaustive treatment of the overland route to India from Europe, and an overview of the ever-precarious northwestern border of British India. The map portends the Great Game, the struggle between Russia and the British Empire for Central Asia, which began with the establishment of an Anglo-Indian trade route to the Emirate of Bukhara (on this map "Bokhara") in 1830.

The map is also remarkable for its treatment of the Middle East on the eve of the first modern surveys of the region.

Middle East Cartography

The cartographic detail in the Middle East is considerable for a map of 1816.

In what would become the United Arab Emirates, the territory is labeled "Joasmi Arabs" with the following toponyms: "Aboo Heyle" (i.e., Abu Hail, Dubai), "Sharga" (Sharjah), "Fusht", "Aymann" (Ajman), Murgaveen, Rasool Khyma (Ras Al Khaimah), Calba, and Ras Ollima. The map was published only three years before the British government in India launched the Persian Gulf campaign of 1819, which subdued the Al Qasimi naval forces (and their alleged piratical activities) and resulted in the General Maritime



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Treaty of 1820 and the establishment of the "Trucial Coast".

On the peninsula of Qatar, "Ras Reccan", "Yamale" (Al Jumail), "Agulla", "Core Hessian" (Al Khuwayr), and "Fereyha" are shown.

Although crude by modern standards, the mapping of the Gulf was some of the best available to the British before George Barnes Brucks' first English survey of the Gulf in 1820.

The map includes important anthropological information in the form of numerous specific ethnonyms sprinkled throughout the Middle East. In present-day Iraq there are "Irak Arabi", "Montefidge Arabs", and "Montesik Arabs" north there is "Kourdistan", across the Syrian Desert there is "Ilaouari Arabs", "Anase Bedouins", "Serde Arabs", "Maouli Bedouins", and "Sakr Arabs".

Grane, the original fishing village of the Sheikhdome of Kuwait is shown with a road to Basra.

Trade and Caravan Routes

In keeping with a map intended to show overland travel, the map is crisscrossed with a web of trade and caravan routes, many of which are annotated. The notes concern days required to traverse the routes (e.g., "35 Days Reported time for the Pilgrims from Medina to Schah Haffer") and, importantly for this region, the places where water could be obtained (e.g., "Well of Good Water | Here Water is provided for 6 Days"). In Persia, the nature of the caravans is elaborated -- "Forty days Journey from Yezd to Furrak for laden Camels" and "Thirty days Journey from Yezd to Dooshak for laden Camels." Other routes noted include:

- From Kerman to Herat across the Desert a Courier can go in 18 days
- Ancient Road of the Nagais from Guriev to Urgantz
- Route of Messers Hogg and Thompson in 1741
- Route of the Caravan from Orenburg to Backharaand and Chiva
- Route of the Caravan from Orskaja to Bakhara
- 8 days from Cashmere
- 8 Days for a Kasila at 7 Coss a day
- It is said the Wool for making Shawls is brought from Rodack and Channtre by way of Leh to Cashmere on Sheep. It is reckoned 25 days Journey to the Leh River
- Bearing of Guinnak Capital of Chinese Tartary reported 20 days Journey

Arrowsmith was apparently quite careful with the routes he noted; there is evidence of an erased route



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through the central Arabian Peninsula that was clearly present on the 1814 edition, but which has been obliterated here.

Conclusion

This is a highly unusual Arrowsmith map - at around 10 feet wide, it is among the largest mappings of a region undertaken by Arrowsmith. Additionally, the subject matter was oft-neglected by other mapmakers of the era, and so this map is indispensable for understanding the British disposition in the 19th-century geopolitical confrontations in Western Asia and the Middle East.

The map is characteristic of the masterwork that we expect from Aaron Arrowsmith; it is impressive in scale, authoritativeness, and detail. And like with his famous map of Africa, he has dispensed with that information which could not be reliably confirmed.

Provenance

Sotheby's, October 20, 1992 (Sale 2942, Lot 844).

Rarity

The map is very rare. We locate the following examples:

1814: Oxford; Bibliotheque National de France; Wurttembergische Landesbibliothek; University of Minnesota; University of Melbourne.

1816: No copies located

1817: Bibliotheque National de France

1821: British Library

We note only one other example at auction since 1980 (Bloomsbury, 2008).

Detailed Condition:

8 sheets, joined. Dissected and laid on 2 sheets of linen. Original blue silk edges. Minor offsetting.