



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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[Complete Set of Paul Emmert's Views of Honolulu]

Stock#: 63101
Map Maker: Emmert
Date: 1854
Place: San Francisco
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 29.5 x 22.5 inches

Price: SOLD

Description:

A Complete Set of Paul Emmert's Exceptional Views of Honolulu.

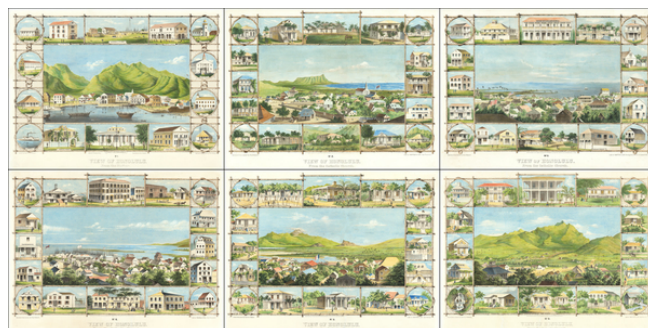
Six hand-colored lithographed views of Honolulu, comprising a complete set of the finest views of Honolulu published in the 19th century.

Emmert's views of Honolulu are of tremendous historical importance, being the most complete visual record of the major buildings, residences, consulates and other structures in the years immediately following Honolulu's becoming King Kamehameha III's capital of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Emmert's views are among the most important early visual artifacts of Hawaiian history. The view was still hanging on the wall beneath the front window of the Bishop's Museum Picture Gallery in 1915.

The set consists of one view of Honolulu looking into the city from the harbor ("No. 1"), and five views (together comprising one long panorama) taken from on top of the tower of the Catholic Church. Each view is surrounded by a host of vignettes showing buildings and smaller scenes around Honolulu. Taken altogether they represent an unparalleled visual record of life and architecture in Honolulu in the early 1850s.

All of the buildings in Emmert's vignettes are carefully labeled; sheet No. 1 shows major public buildings including the Palace of King Kamehameha III, the interior of the fort, the courthouse, Market House, Charity School, Stone Church, the Armory, and the steamer Akamai; sheet No. 2 primarily shows diplomatic buildings, including the house of the Peruvian Consul, U.S. Consul, U.S. Commissioner, Bremen Consul, Swedish Consul, Danish Consul, French Consul, etc.; the other sheets show businesses and larger private homes.

History of Production





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The views are based on original drawings undertaken by Paul Emmert during 1853 and early 1854 (see the Emmert biography below for more details).

In May 1854, the Honolulu newspaper *Polynesian* published a preliminary review of Emmert's views:

Views in Honolulu,

We have had the pleasure of examining a series of drawings by Mr. Paul Emmert, and embracing all the principal buildings, classified, and arranged as a border around the central views.

Mr. Emmert, we understand, intends having all these lithographed, in a superior manner, and if so we can recommend them as accurate representations of the city and buildings of Honolulu. He soon leaves for San Francisco, for this purpose intending to return in a few months with copies of his views for sale, for which we anticipate a large demand and ready sale.

When Emmert returned from San Francisco, in October 1854, *Polynesian* published a follow up:

Emmert's Views of Honolulu.

We have before alluded to a series of representations of Honolulu, embracing its principal public and private buildings, by Mr. Paul Emmert. The whole series, six in number, is now completed, and have been received in Honolulu, but where they are for sale, we have not been informed.

These views are executed in a fine style of art, and reflect much credit on Mr. E. who took the drawings, and who has brought them out in San Francisco at much cost and labor.

The public will doubtless be informed when they are ready for sale, and where they are to be procured, and we hope a liberal community will appreciate Mr. E.'s talent and labor by an extensive purchase of these beautiful views.

The *Honolulu Friend* noted that the set of six lithographs comprised a panorama two feet wide and twelve feet long and took Emmert and two assistants three months to complete at a cost of over \$4,000. The views were offered for sale at \$3.00 each or a set of six for \$15.00, and Emmert opened a lithography and wood engraving studio over Vincent Grenier's store on Nuuanu Street.

Rarity

The complete set of views is extremely rare, with no record of the set appearing at auction or in a dealer catalog and especially not in full period color. A recent biographical sketch on Emmert noted 3 complete



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sets.

- Bancroft Library (UC Berkeley)
- Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundation (New York Public Library)
- Amon Carter Museum (Fort Worth, Texas)

We note a fourth set at Yale in the Beinecke Library (A gift from the Paul Mellon Collection). Reps also noted a complete set at the Hawaii Historical Society and the Bishop's Museum Library (Honolulu).

OCLC locates single examples of No. 3 View of Honolulu, From The Catholic Church at the University of Connecticut. We note two uncolored examples offered by William Reese (No. 3 and No. 5) and a single example of No. 5 offered for sale at auction in 2009.

The views are also known in a tinted lithograph edition (printed in two colors, black and beige). We speculate that this set was issued before the second stone was completed, and that hand-coloring was added in lieu of tinting.

Detailed Condition:

Professionally removed from old backing-board. Cleaned. Remnants of old hand-color, refreshed. Very few clean tears repaired.