



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

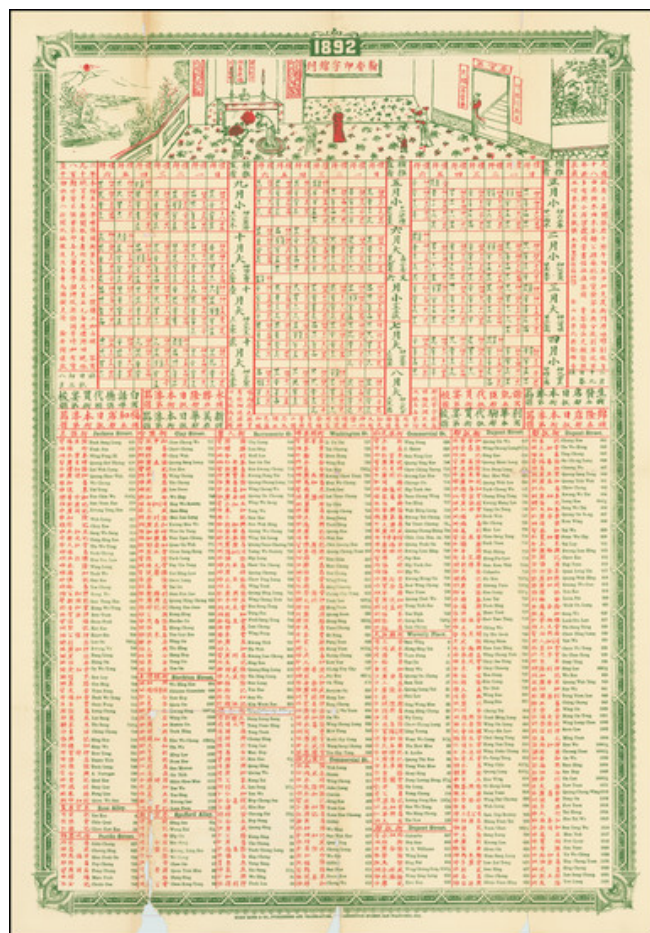
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[Chinese-Language San Francisco Chinatown Business Directory and Lunar Calendar for 1892]

Stock#: 66981jc
Map Maker: Horn Hong & Co.
Date: 1892
Place: San Francisco
Color: Color
Condition: Good
Size: 15.5 x 23 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Capturing the Economic Vibrance of 19th-century San Francisco's Chinatown.

Large, separately-issued Chinese-language business directory and lunar calendar, published by Horn Hong & Co. in San Francisco in 1892.

The sheet is divided into three main sections. The picture at the top shows a Chinese New Year scene. The characters on the walls are Chinese Spring Festival Couplets (or *chunlian* in Chinese), composed of a pair of poetry lines vertically pasted on both sides of the door and a horizontal scroll (usually with four characters written on it) above the doorframe. The title of the couplets indicates that the broadsheet was made by the publisher named in the imprint line.

Drawer Ref: Northern
California 1

Stock#: 66981jc



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Below the New Year scene is a Chinese lunar calendar corresponding to the Gregorian calendar year 1892, the year of the dragon. The calendar begins on January 29th, 1892. The calendar displays both the Gregorian and Chinese dates. The dates are differentiated by color; the small green characters are Western dates, the red ones are Chinese. Such calendars were typically displayed for daily use on the walls of Chinese living rooms.

Below the calendar is the business directory for San Francisco Chinatown. The broadsheet lists every and all Chinese businesses in San Francisco Chinatown, street by street, house number by house number. The "Dupont Street" that takes up the rightmost columns was renamed "Grant Avenue" after the 1906 earthquake.

Besides providing the business indexes, the broadsheet also has ads advertising products for different stores and shops.

It seems probable that this was paid for by the Chinatown business community so that it could be given away to patrons of the named businesses.

Horn Hong & Co. was a publishing and translation firm serving the local Chinatown community. Horn Hong & Co. published *The Weekly occidental* newspaper from 1878 to around 1900.

Taber photographed the Horn Hong & Co. storefront in the 1880s.

Rarity

No other examples found. Furthermore, this is the only example of a Chinatown business directory-lunar calendar that we have found. This is not surprising, as calendars are by their nature ephemeral.

The Weekly occidental is recorded in OCLC, though no institutional copies are located. No other material by Horn Hong & Co. can be found in OCLC.

Detailed Condition:

Old folds with some small separations and losses, as illustrated.