



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

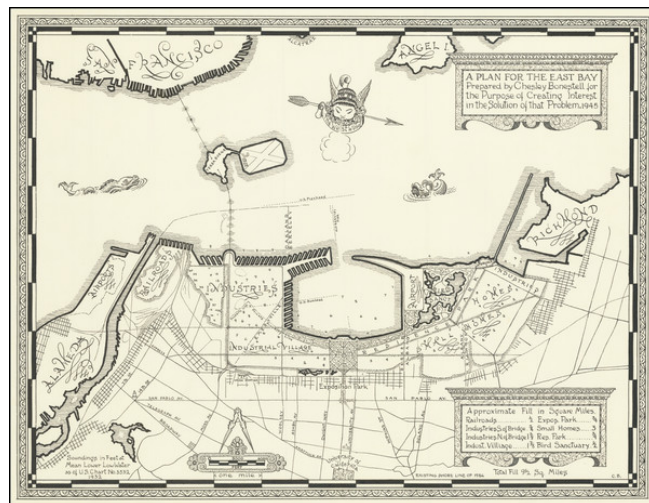
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## **[Hand Drawn Map By The Father of Modern Space Art] A Plan For The East Bay Prepared by Chesley Bonestell for the Purpose of Creating Interest in the Solution of that Problem. 1945.**

**Stock#:** 68505  
**Map Maker:** Bonestell  
**Date:** 1936 circa  
**Place:** Berkeley ?  
**Color:** Pen & Ink  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 21 x 16 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



### **Description:**

#### ***Waterfront Improvement Plan of the East Bay Drawn By The Father of Modern Space Art***

Hand drawn map illustrating a shoreline improvement plan of the East Bay, centered Berkeley, drawn by renowned American space and science fiction illustrator Chesley Bonestell.

While we have not been able to identify the specific project for which the map was drawn, we surmise that the work was done by Bonestell during the time he was working on ideas with Joseph Strauss, the chief engineer for the Golden Gate Bridge, in connection with proposals relating to the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition. Similarly, the dating on the map is somewhat of a mystery. While previously given the date of 1945 (in the title), we believe the map was drawn in about 1936.

The proposed project included 9.5 Square Miles of Land Fill, as noted below the legend. Oriented with west at the top of the map, Bonestell's drawing stretches from Alameda Island and Estuary at the far right to Richmond, illustrating enough of San Francisco, the Bay Bridge, Alcatraz and Angel Island to provide geographical context.

The focus of the plan is on the Oakland and Berkeley side of the Bay, describing coastal and pier development from the Alameda Naval Airfields to Point Richmond. Main roads, residential and industrial areas, an exposition park, bird sanctuary, Union Station, and the University of California are some of the specific references found on the map. Specific areas on the map are reserved for:

Drawer Ref: Northern  
California 1

Stock#: 68505



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- Airports (Alameda and Berkeley)
- Railroads
- Industries
- Industrial Village
- Small Homes
- Bird Sanctuary

The map shows an unnamed Treasure Island, an artificial island in the San Francisco Bay, which was built in 1936-37 for the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition.

A few decorative motifs commonly found on sixteenth-century maps such as sea monsters, a wind-head compass, an ornate distance scale and title cartouche proved too tempting for the imaginative Bonestell not to include in his composition.

#### **History Behind The Map**

The map includes 3 dates, a 1945 date in the title, a reference to a 1932 chart for soundings, and a note stating "Existing Shoreline of 1936."

Based upon biographical and historical data, it would seem to make the most sense that the map was drawn in about 1936, about the time of the construction of the Berkeley Yacht Harbor. In the late 1930s, Bonestell moved to Hollywood. Prior to that time, he prepared illustrations of the chief engineer's plans for the Golden Gate Bridge. The location of the Old Berkeley Pier and U.S. Pierhead and discussion of land fill areas which never happened strongly suggests a pre-WWII date.

The map may be related to a project undertaken by Bonestell at about the time of the planning for the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition. In the 1930s, Bonestell had been actively engaged in working with the chief architect of the Golden Gate Bridge, Joseph Strauss. One of Strauss's major projects was his idea for the design of the site for the World's Fair. The University of California Berkeley and Oakland Public Library have a number of illustrations by Bonestell related to the World's Fair Project.

Further evidence of the later dating of the map is the unnamed Treasure Island, which was built in 1936-37 for the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition. The primitive information on the Island reflects the plan for an airport on the island and 3 structures on the south side of the island, nearest to Yerba Buena Island, as illustrated in early drawings. [http://www.sparkletack.com/wp-content/img/podcast\\_img/63/airportsketch.jpg](http://www.sparkletack.com/wp-content/img/podcast_img/63/airportsketch.jpg)

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Originally constructed as an airport for Pan Am's line of Trans-Pacific "flying boats," the illustration here clearly pre-dates the construction for the fair.

Based upon the totality of the illustration and the use of the name "Exposition Park" adjacent to the Berkeley Marina, our assumption is that this was an early rendering for urban improvements done by Bonestell during his work for the 1939 Exposition.

**Detailed Condition:**