



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

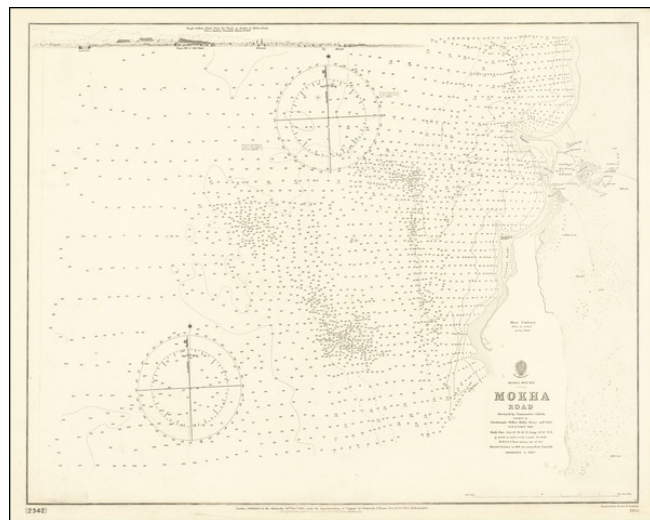
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[Mocha, Yemen] Arabia -- Red Sea -- Mokha Road Surveyed by Commander Aldrich assisted by Lieutenants Pullen, Helby, Keary and Cust, H.M.S. "Fawn" 1882. [With an early View of Mocha!]

Stock#: 68944
Map Maker: British Admiralty
Date: 1882
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 23.5 x 18.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Detailed map of the area around the town and port of Mocha in Western Yemen, published by the British Admiralty.

The map includes extensive offshore soundings and coastal features, including the location of the city pier, 3 minarets, 4 mosques and various forts.

A finely executed "Rough Outline Sketch from the Vessel at Anchor in Mokha Roads," based upon an original by Commander Haines in 1836 appears across the top, providing an interesting perspective view of the city and fortifications.

Mocha

Mocha reached its zenith in the 17th century, driven by its importance in the coffee trade, which included about 400 Jewish households. Passing through Mocha in 1752 and 1756, Remedius Prutky found that it boasted a "lodging-house of the Prophet Muhammad, which was like a huge tenement block laid out in many hundred separate cells where accommodation was rented to all strangers without discrimination of race or religion." He also found a number of European ships in the harbor: three French, four English, two Dutch, and one Portuguese

Mocha was very dependent on imported coffee beans from present-day Ethiopia, which was exported by



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Somali merchants from Berbera across the Gulf of Aden. The Berbera merchants procured most of the coffee from the environs of Harar and shipped them off in their own vessels during the Berbera trading season.

In December 1820, *HMS Topaze* and ships and troops belonging to the British East India Company attacked the North and South Forts, destroying them. A decade and a half later, Ibrahim Pasha of Egypt would also attack the city and destroy its fortified wall closest to the sea, as well as its citadel. However, by that time, Mocha's trade in its country's precious commodity of coffee grains (*Coffea arabica*) had already been supplanted by Ethiopia which was the principal trader of this commodity to North Africa and which sold for a third of the price of the same coffee imported from Arabia.

Diplomat Edmund Roberts visited Mocha in the 1830s. He noted that Turkish "rebels" possessed Mocha. The Turks took it over after they left Egypt while being disgruntled with the rule of Muhammad Ali of Egypt. These "rebels", consisting of confederates throughout Arabia, had banded together under one leader named Turkie ben al Mas. Jacob Saphir who visited the city in 1859 wrote about seeing many houses that were vacant of dwellers, although the Turkish governor still dwelt there with a band of soldiers, collecting taxes from local traders and ships visiting the harbor.

When the British took control over Aden, the port in Mocha fell into disuse, being replaced by Aden. The general destruction of the city was still prominent as late as 1909, when German explorer and photographer, Hermann Burchardt, wrote of the city Mocha as he saw it: "This card will reach you from one of the most godforsaken little places in Asia. It exceeds all my expectations, with regard to the destruction. It looks like a city entirely destroyed by earthquakes, etc."

Rarity

The chart is quite rare. We note only an example at the British Library and a later state of the chart in the National Maritime Museum collection.

Detailed Condition: