



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

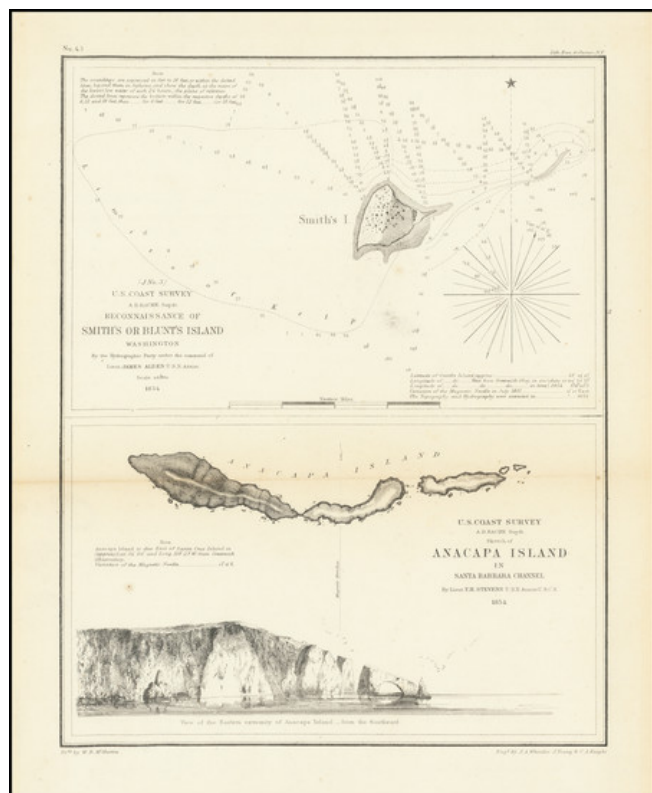
7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Sketch of Anacapa Island In Santa Barbara Channel . . . 1854 [with] Reconnaissance of Smith's or Blunt's Island Washington . . . 1854 [J.A. Whistler engraving]

Stock#: 70293
Map Maker: United States Coast Survey
Date: 1855
Place: Washington
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 9.5 x 12 inches
Price: \$450.00



Description:

Whistler's Seagulls -- Earliest Known Engraving Work By James Abott MacNeil Whistler

An extremely important set of maps of from the California Coastline, being the first known example of the engraving work of James Abbott MacNeill Whistler, who would go on to have a career as one of America's most famous 19th Century Artists.

Whistler, one of the most influential figures in the 19th-century art world, learned etching while employed in the cartographic section of the U.S. Coast Survey. According to that agency's volume of Personnel Records, 1816-1881, Whistler was hired by the federal government as a draftsman on November 7, 1854, for \$1.50 a day. However, his unconventional work habits and his inability to conform to government routine led to his dismissal on January 9, 1855.

One of the few known works completed by Whistler during his brief federal service, *Sketch of Anacapa*



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Island . . ., exemplifies Whistler's need to add his personal touch to official charts. After he completed this etching in the approved style, he thought it looked dull. Therefore, he added two flocks of gulls sailing gracefully over the rocky headland.

Detailed Condition: