Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.

North America

Stock#:	70667
Map Maker:	Arrowsmith & Lewis
Date:	1804
Place:	Boston
Color:	Hand Colored
Condition:	VG
Size:	8.5 x 10 inches
Price:	SOLD

Description:

A Fascinating Pre-Louisiana Purchase Map of North America

Scarce early map of North America, shortly before the Louisiana Purchase.

An interesting time period, immediately preceding the reports of Alexander von Humboldt and Zebulon Pike, in the year prior to the Louisiana Purchase.

The map includes the important information first added by Arrowsmith to his larger maps and utilized by Lewis & Clark . For Lewis & Clark, the most notable information was the tentative tributaries for the Upper Missouri River regions. The 1802 Arrowsmith was the first to show the Upper Missouri joined with the Mississippi River in its correct location.

Above and west of the Mandan Villages, the map incorporates for the first time the reports of Peter Fidler for the Hudson's Bay Company, by including a series of possible river courses to the west, leading to (and prospectively through) the Rocky Mountains. It was this section of the map that provided the best

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depiction of the prospect of a water route or portage through the Rocky Mountains and to the Pacific. It was this information, along with reports from local Indians encountered on the expedition, which Lewis & Clark relied in choosing their path to the Rocky Mountains.

The large blank areas in the west show how little was known about the lands up the Missouri River Valley and across the Rocky Mountains and reflect the blank canvas upon which the mapping of the west would be drawn over the next 4 decades. Explorers had probed the edges of the region, but Europeans had not yet penetrated the interior.

Detailed Condition: