



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

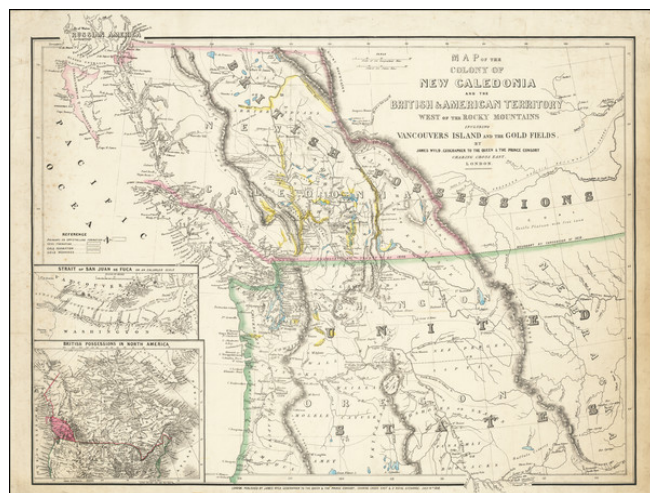
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Map of the Colony of New Caledonia and the British & American Territory West of the Rocky Mountains Including Vancouvers Island and the Gold Fields.

Stock#: 71073
Map Maker: Wyld
Date: 1858 (July 16)
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 25.5 x 20.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

First State of this Exceptional Fraser Canyon Gold Rush Rarity

One of the great early mappings of the Pacific Northwest, covering Oregon Territory, Washington Territory, and British Columbia (which was then still "New Caledonia") with information derived from the Hudson Bay Company and Royal Engineers surveying activity in the region.

The Fraser Gold Rush had begun in 1858 and cartographic information was somewhat slow to make its way back to London. Thus this is one of the earliest and best maps for the region from this crucial era.

The map extends from Fort Hall in Oregon Territory in the south to the northern boundary of the Colony of British Columbia in the north. "Russian America" is labeled in the upper-left corner of the map, covering the present-day southern tip of the Alaskan panhandle. In the east, the map extends to the plains of Alberta and Montana.

As is declared in the title, the map is concerned with gold mining and the key at the far left relates to it. The four entries there read "Primary or Crystalline Formation", "Coal Formation" (coal was an important resource in the Pacific Northwest with locations around Puget Sound and Gulf of Georgia), "Gold Formation", "Gold Workings". An additional symbol for "Coal Deposits" was seemingly lithographed as an afterthought in the bottom margin.

Vancouver Island (the Vancouver Island Colony) is shown as separate from the Colony of British Columbia.



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The map has two insets in the lower-left corner: "Strait of San Juan de Fuca on an Enlarged Scale" and "British Possessions in North America".

Gold Regions in Washington Territory

One of the map's noteworthy features is the numerous areas shown as gold diggings or otherwise colored to show gold in Washington Territory.

- To the east of Seattle, Sakpam or Cedar River, Nooskope River, White River, and Puyallup River are all shown as gold regions
- East of the Cascade Mountains, a "Rich Gold District" is shown on the upper forks of the Yakima River
- Further north at the confluence of the Flathead or Clarks River with the Columbia River and extending south to Spokane and Coeur D'Alene, there are several areas labeled "Gold" and others colored to indicate gold regions.

While largely a product of Fraser River Fever, the map certainly encourages the notion of gold in Washington Territory. Gold was first discovered in 1853 in the Yakima River Valley by a party under the command of Capt. George McClelland exploring a possible railroad route. By 1855, prospectors were active in the Colville district although the first discoveries were not made until 1883. In 1855, small placers were found along the Columbia and Pend Oreille Rivers. From the 1850s through the 1880s, placers were worked along streams in Okanogan, Whatcom, Chelan, and Kittitas Counties and along the major streams of the State - the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

States of the Map

There are 4 known states of the map, all extremely rare:

- State 1 (1858): Title is "Map of the Colony of New Caledonia..."
- State 2 (July 16, 1858): Title changed to "Map of the Colony of New Columbia". Dated added in imprint below map
- State 3: (September 10th, 1858): Title changed to "Map of the Colony of British Columbia...", in recognition of the newly formed and named British Colony of British Columbia. Date at bottom revised. Other changes within the map.
- State 4: (September 1859): Date at bottom changed. Other changes within the map.

Rarity



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Rocky Mountains Including Vancouvers Island and the Gold Fields.**

All states of the map are very rare.

We locate examples at Yale, University of British Columbia, Idaho State Archives, British Library and John Warkentin Map Collection at York University, Canada.

Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color. Some soft creasing and toning to the right edge but overall VG.