



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman  
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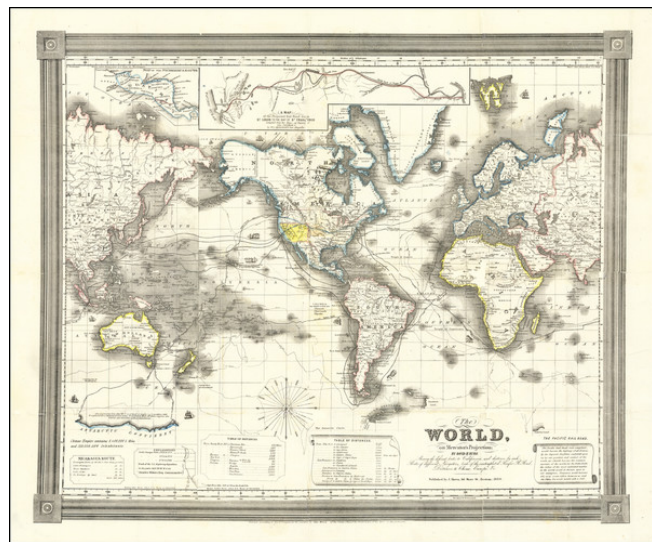
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**The World, on Mercator's Projection: By David H. Burr. Shewing the different routes to California, and distance by each Routes of different Navigators, route of the contemplated Pacific R. Road, Distances to China, Europe &c. . . . 1850**

**Stock#:** 72444  
**Map Maker:** Burr  
**Date:** 1850  
**Place:** New York  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** Good  
**Size:** 23 x 19 inches  
**Price:** \$ 1,400.00



**Description:**

Rare Gold Rush era map of the World, illustrating the different sea routes to the Gold Regions of California.

With primary emphasis on the oceanic routes to the Gold Diggings, the map is also a fascinating early look at the early prospects for the transcontinental railroad. At the top center, the map includes a large inset, noting the route of the "Proposed Rail Road from St. Louis to the Bay of San Francisco Compiled from the Maps and Reports of Col. Fremont by W.L. Dearborn, Civil Engineer."

The inset map is drawn from an extremely rare and early pamphlet, illustrating a proposed route for the Transcontinental Railroad from St. Louis to San Francisco. The title of the pamphlet is *Description of A Rail Road Route from St. Louis to San Francisco, Letters to P. P. F. Degrand, from W. L. Dearborn, Civil Engineer. 1849.*

Dearborn's map received high marks from Carl Wheat in his *Mapping of the American West, 1540-1857*, p. 123 (1954), where he notes :

*A far more important, and even prophetic, document was published by W. L. Dearborn, of Boston, whose "Map illustrative of the route of the proposed railroad from St. Louis to the Bay of San Francisco" (Wheat 78) accompanied his description of the route in letters written to P.*



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*P. F. Degrand. Save for the first stretch from St. Louis to the Kansas River and across to the Platte; save for a proposed use of South Pass, and save for the Sublette Cutoff portion, the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads were built almost precisely along Dearborn's proposed route.*

**Rarity**

This would seem to be the first edition of the map.

**Detailed Condition:**

Several mended fold splits and tears with loss, some areas with manuscript facsimile. The entire map archivally backed. A very presentable example of a map often found in poor condition.