



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

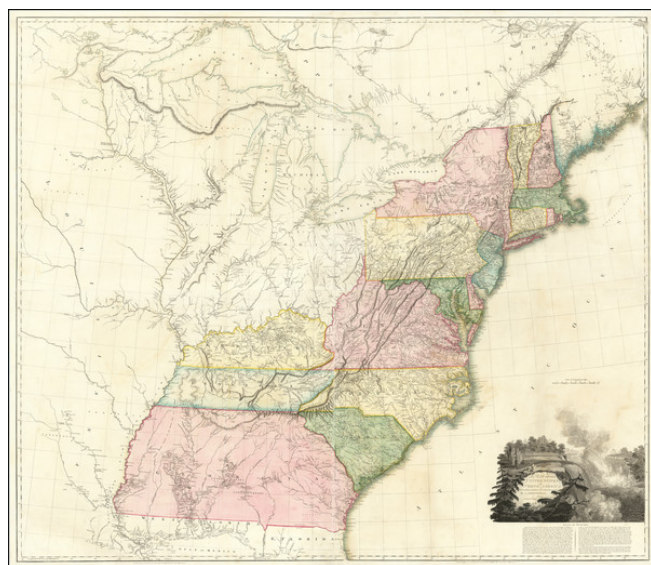
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**A Map of the United States of North America Drawn from a number of Critical
Researches. By Aaron Arrowsmith, Geographer No. 24 Rathbone Place**

Stock#: 76166
Map Maker: Arrowsmith
Date: 1796 (circa 1804)
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 56 x 48 inches Each Sheet
Price: \$ 12,000.00



Description:

Early Appearance of the Michigan Territory and Ohio -- One of the Maps Consulted By Lewis & Clark

Fine full-color example of Aaron Arrowsmith's landmark map of the United States, published shortly after the Louisiana Purchase.

The map contains fabulous details regarding the eastern seaboard, inland to the Mississippi. The map is particularly remarkable for its detail in the Trans-Appalachian region, which draws on detail from various American sources. Further west, detail becomes sparser, and the Mississippi River and its tributaries provide the only detail in the region.

The map shows representations of the Mississippi Basin region that are starting to be updated from French 18th-century sources. The uppermost Mississippi has a number of tributaries and feeding lakes, and a portage system is shown between the Mississippi and the tributaries for the Lake of the Woods. Dividing ranges are shown here.

This is the first state of the map to name Michigan and Ohio. Detroit and French Town and forms part of a general trend in Arrowsmith's mapping to increase the information available in the plains and midwestern states. This area started in the earliest editions as having information limited only to the river regions, and



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by later editions evolved to having a comparable amount of information across the map.

Arrowsmith displays his mastery of cartography in the Tennessee and Kentucky regions, where detail is updated well past what Mitchell's and Pownall's maps showed. This relied on early American reports of exploration in the region, which commenced as soon as the Revolutionary War ceased. Arrowsmith likely relied on an early state of Bradley's *Map of the United States* for some of the updated information. For information further north and west, Arrowsmith incorporated information using the data passed to the by fur traders and Native Americans for the Hudson Bay Company.

This map appeared alongside another Arrowsmith map of the interior parts of the continents which was the most accurate map of the western United States at the time and used by the Lewis and Clark Expedition during their travels.

In addition to ground-breaking cartography, the map is embellished with a large, engraved vignette of Niagara Falls with descriptive text describing the falls. Two blocks of text describe this waterfall.

States of the Map

The map is known in the following states:

1. 1796: Arrowsmith address-Charles Street. Tennessee Government shown. Includes "Boundaries Communicated by Geo. Chalmers Esq.r"
2. 1796 circa: "Tennessee" added as a state, but the address is unchanged. (Note that this is not what is described by Stevens & Tree.)
3. 1799 circa: Address now 24 Rathbone Place.
4. 1802: Imprint line on lower left sheet reads "London Jan. 1st 1796. Additions to 1802":
5. 1804 circa: Chalmers' text block deleted (bottom left corner)
6. 1808 circa: address changed to 10 Soho Square.
7. 1810 circa: Arrowsmith given title 'Hydrographer to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales ...',
8. 1810 circa: Michigan and Ohio Territories added for the first time.
9. 1815: imprint changed to "Additions to 1802-1815."
10. 1818: imprint changed to "Additions to 1802-1816."
11. 1818: Imprint Changed to "Additions to 1802-1818."
12. 1819: Imprint Changed to "Additions to 1819" Northwest Territory, Indiana, Louisiana, Illinois Territory, Missouri Territory and Mississippi Territory are added.
13. 1819: Wing flaps added to the map to cover additional area outside the neatlines of the 4 sheets.



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Rarity

Arrowsmith's map of the United States is scarce on the market, especially the pre-1808 editions of the map, pre-dating Arrowsmith's move to Soho Square.

Detailed Condition:

4-sheets, joined, as issued. Original color, recently refreshed. Several tears expertly repaired on the verso. Some evidence of old staining.