



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

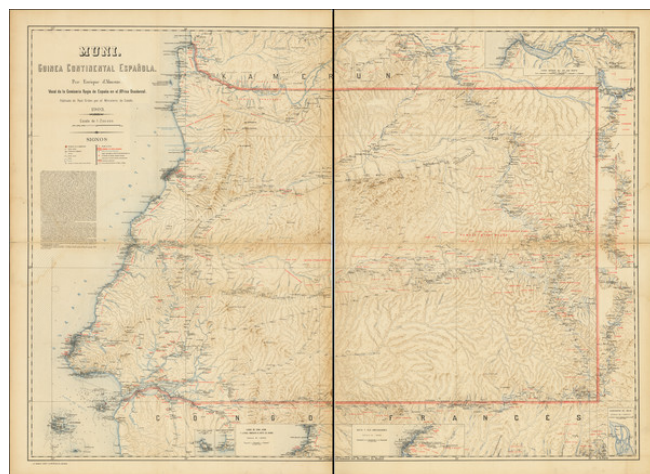
7407 La Jolla Boulevard  
La Jolla, CA 92037

[www.raremaps.com](http://www.raremaps.com)

(858) 551-8500  
[blr@raremaps.com](mailto:blr@raremaps.com)

## **[Rio Muni -- Equatorial Guinea] Muni. Guinea Continental Española. Por Enrique d'Almonte. Vocal de la Comisaria Regia de España en el Africa Occidental. . . . 1903**

**Stock#:** 78261  
**Map Maker:** d'Almonte y Muriel  
**Date:** 1903  
**Place:** Madrid  
**Color:** Color  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 50 x 35.5 inches (if joined)  
**Price:** SOLD



### **Description:**

#### ***The First Map of The Spanish Equatorial Guinea Province of Rio Muni***

A phenomenal map of Spanish Equatorial Guinea, published shortly after the Treaty of established the Rio Muni province of Spanish Equatorial Guinea in 1900.

Then also known as Continental Spanish Guinea or Rio Muni, the present map provides a minutely detailed treatment of the province, the first attempt to provide a meaningful and useful mapping of the region

The map provides the first meaningful mapping of the region, along set of historical notes and minute treatment of tribal names, indigenous populations, Catholic Mission, factories, roads, paths and topographical details of the region, along with location and districts of the boundary commission.

The map was prepared by Enrique d'Almonte y Muriel, an important Spanish Colonial mapmaker and geographer, who had been sent to Rio Muni following the Franco-Spanish Treaty of Paris in 1900, specifically to work as part of the boundary commission to establish the new border between the French Congo and Spanish Equatorial Guinea, and also to survey the region for the Spanish Royal Geographical Society, as a means of developing trade and expanding plantations.

This work was followed by a broad expansion of investment and farming in the region over the next several decades, along with several articles written by D'Almonte urging a broader colonial exploitation of the natural resources of the region.



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**Spanish Equatorial Guinea**

Río Muni was part of the region ceded by Portugal to Spain in 1778 in the Treaty of El Pardo, which also included Fernando Po, which became a more productive region for the Spanish. The Spanish had hoped to collect slaves to work in their other overseas possessions, but their settlers died of yellow fever and the area was deserted. Cocoa and timber became major industries upon recolonization. Río Muni, along with Bioko, became a province of Spanish Guinea in 1959.

The treaty of Paris in 1900 left Spain with the continental enclave of Río Muni, less than ten percent of the area stretching east to the Ubangi river which the Spaniards had initially claimed. The enclave was far smaller than what the Spaniards had considered themselves rightfully entitled to under their claims and the Treaty of El Pardo, which was considered a great humiliation of the Franco-Spanish negotiations.

The early twentieth century saw a new generation of Spanish immigrants. Land regulations issued in 1904-1905 favored Spaniards, and most of the later big planters arrived from Spain thereafter. An agreement made with Liberia in 1914 to import cheap labor greatly favored wealthy men with ready access to the state, and the shift in labor supplies from Liberia to Río Muni increased this advantage. Allowing a more successful exploitation of the region, although chronic labor shortages for the plantations was a perennial issue.

**Detailed Condition:**

Segmented and laid on 2 sheets of linen, as issued.