



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

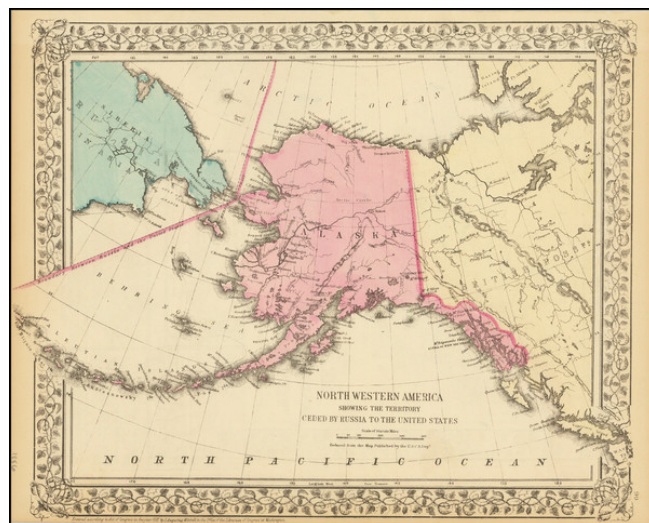
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Northwestern America Showing The Territory Ceded By Russia To the United States

Stock#: 78325
Map Maker: Mitchell Jr.
Date: 1886
Place: Philadelphia
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 14.5 x 12 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The First Atlas Map To Show Alaska as and Part of the United States

A detailed map of Alaska, showing the territory shortly after it was sold by Russia to America for \$7.2 Million in 1867. The map locates towns, mountains (with elevations), rivers, bays, and other details. Cities named include Sitka and Sheshalik. The only indication of settlement in the Cook Inlet is a "Russian Village" near present-day Tyonek.

Detail extends into neighboring countries. Several mountain ranges are visible throughout Canada, which is labeled simply as a "British Possession." Many of the major features are well mapped, with the Yukon River traceable to its source. Central Alaska and the Brooks Range are little mapped, and these would not be fully explored or even named until the 1920s.

Alaska had been purchased by the US in 1867 in a move then-known as "Seward's Folly" after the Secretary of State who organized the transfer. Russia had been interested in selling the territory for some time prior, both needing an immediate income and realizing that the territory proved a liability in the event of a war with Britain. The deal would not be completed until after the Civil War, during the Johnson presidency. In the immediate aftermath of the purchase, both Russian and American settlers were unhappy. American settlers generally lacked the capital to exploit Alaskan resources, and were easily outcompeted by markets in Canada and the Pacific Northwest. Russian and indigenous inhabitants were unhappy at the erosion of the rule of law under the territorial government. The territory would not be seen as valued or adequately-governed until the Klondike gold strike, and debate continues even to this day



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about the profitability of the purchase.

Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color. Trimmed close to the imprint line at the bottom edge.