



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

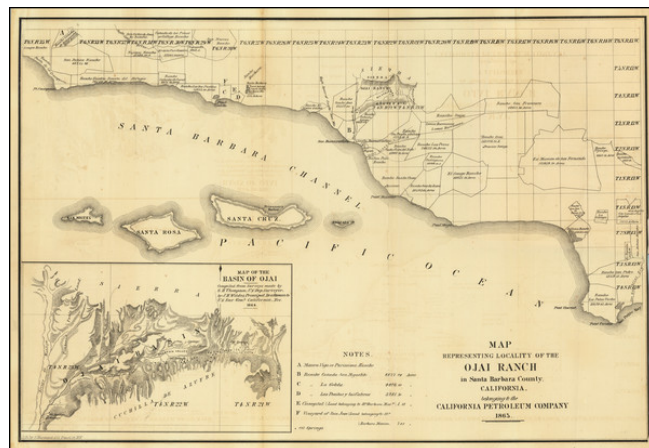
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## Map Representing Locality of The Ojai Ranch in Santa Barbara County, California, belonging to the California Petroleum Company [with text:] A Description of the Recently Discovered Petroleum Region in California.

**Stock#:** 83936  
**Map Maker:** Silliman  
**Date:** 1865  
**Place:** New York  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 23 x 15 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

***Rare Early California Oil Company Prospectus.***

***With a map of the Santa Barbara area.***

First edition of Silliman's second report on oil in California, with the large folding map of Santa Barbara. This important work stands as one of the earliest promotional works for a California oil company, thus marking the beginning of the oil industry in the region. Petroleum exploration by other companies in Southern California quickly followed the efforts of the California Petroleum Company. Silliman's first report was issued in 1864, but was not issued with the map. The present prospectus, often referred to as Silliman's second report, and issued by Francis & Loutrel, is the first edition to include the folding map. The map locates the company's lands around Ojai in Santa Barbara County. This work also contains one folding cross-section: *The ideal section from Buenaventura to Mupu Arroyo.*

As noted in the *Heckrotte Catalog*:

*This rare little prospectus discusses all aspects of extracting petroleum, a recent source of wealth in the Santa Barbara area. Includes a paragraph on labor (discussing Chinamen who were industrious but faced a backlash), plus discussions on the market for oil and much on geology, and of course the proposed earnings for those investing in the company. The folding map is "Map Representing Locality of the Ojai Ranch in Santa Barbara County, California,*



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belonging to the California Petroleum Company [with text:] A Description of the  
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*belonging to the California Petroleum Company" (58x39 cm). The map shows the coast from Pt. Concepcion to San Pedro Bay at a scale of 6 miles to an inch. Ranchos are shown. It has an inset of the Ojai Basin. The folding diagram shows an "Ideal Section from Buenaventura to Mupu Arroyo." Warren Heckrotte comments that "This the second pamphlet and the second by Silliman dealing with oil in California; and the map is regarded as the first to show oil deposits in California. (However, Doolittle's map of Humboldt County, 1865 also shows gas and oil deposits.) The text states that the map was prepared by Thomas Sprague, Surveyor of Santa Barbara County. The text states that the oil outcrops are numbered on the map, but this is not the case."*

In addition to detailing the oil lands, the map covers an area in what is now Ventura County and indicates the names of various ranches in the region. Streeter notes that the map is on an unusually large scale of 6 miles to the inch.

The map includes an index to properties and an inset *Map of the basin of Ojai: compiled from surveys made by G.H. Thompson, U.S. Dep. Surveyor, by J.H. Wildes, principal draftsman to U.S. Sur. Genl., California.*

The California Petroleum Company was capitalized at \$10,000,000 and issued 100,000 shares at \$100 each, with one-tenth of the capital stock reserved for working capital. The text details methods used in processing petroleum and suggests its future importance as a fuel, as a replacement for coal, and as an application in the manufacture of illuminating gas. Silliman, who was a noted chemistry professor at Yale, concludes that:

*...the promise of a remarkable development at Buenaventura is far better than it was in the Pennsylvania or Ohio regions - since so famous.*

Despite Silliman's glowing report his findings were attacked by Josiah Whitney and William Brewer - largely based on some early samples of doubtful quality. While the California Petroleum Company did not survive the ensuing controversy, Silliman was ultimately vindicated in his understanding of the rich potential of the petroleum deposits of Southern California.

An important and rare work for the California oil industry, described by the Eberstadts as *the beginning of the petroleum industry in the West.*



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**Detailed Condition:**

Octavo. Original printed wrappers. Contemporary inscription on front wrapper (lower margin) and on rear wrapper: "Walker & Denton, Agts. for the sale of Stock of the California Petroleum Co., Corning, N.Y." Faint old stains on rear wrapper. The folding map and folding cross section are both clean and nice. [2], iii, [1], 24, [1] pages. Complete. Some occasional old and rather faint dampstaining to upper margin of most leaves. Withal, very good.