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[The Massacre of the Rev. John Williams at Erromanga by G. Baxter]

Stock#: 86582
Map Maker: Baxter
Date: 1841
Place: London
Color: Color
Condition: Fair
Size: 12.5 x 9 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

A famous image of the English missionary John Williams being killed (he was later eaten, as well) while working in the New Hebrides (now Vanuatu), northeast of New Caledonia.

The scene is reminiscent of the popular images of the Death of Captain Cook, with Rev. Williams fleeing from natives and being hacked down on the beach. In fact, Cook was the first European recorded to have visited Erromango, the island where Williams was killed.

Williams was not the last missionary killed at Erromango; in total, six missionaries were killed on the island.

The print was made with the Baxter printing method, developed by its namesake George Baxter, in the 1820s and '30s. Baxter prints are made from multiple matrixes, each printing an oil color that is registered with the other images to render the whole composition. In this way, Baxter prints are like chromolithography, though they tend to produce images that are even more like original paintings than the latter method.

Detailed Condition:

Color-printed (Baxter print) on wove paper. Mounted on card. Heavily chipped on the right edge, with some glue residue on the surface. The loss could be and was previously matted out. In poor to fair condition, but an interesting piece all the same.