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(The Toda People of India) The Morrt of Meyni, or Mahneymund

Stock#: 86589
Map Maker: Anonymous
Date: 1830
Place: Ooty, Nilgris
Color: Pen & Ink with Wash Color
Condition: VG
Size: 16 x 12 inches
Price: \$ 1,100.00



Description:

A fascinating original drawing made in 1830 in Ootacamund (today known more commonly as Ooty), in the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu.

This drawing is probably related to a survey of the area that was made in the early 1830s by Henry Harkness. This resulted in two works, both of which were illustrated by Captain E.A. McCurdy. In 1831, Harkness sent from Madras a manuscript that was published in London under the title *A Description of a Singular Aboriginal Race Inhabiting the Summit of the Neilgherry Hills*. That work includes the following description of the area depicted here:

Proceeding in the first instance towards the ruins of a fortress, lying north-west of Ootacamund, we soon came in view of the morrt of Meyni, the scenery of which is beautiful and picturesque in the extreme. It is situated on a gentle slope, near the foot of a range of hills, and just below a graceful opening, through which dark grey mountains appear in the distance, rising up, as it would seem, from the very centre of the earth.

The second work was a set of plates by McCurdy titled *Views of the Nielgherries, or Blue Mountains of Coimbeoor, Southern India: The Seremoogy or Streemooga Pass, Neilgherry Mountains; Kotagherry looking down on the plains of Coimbeoor; View of part of the lake and cottages Ottacamund from Cluny; Front view of the Great Dodabetta Ottacamund.*

While McCurdy's work, at least as translated into lithography, seems to be more refined than the present drawing, the timing and subject focus of Harkness and McCurdy suggest a connection with that effort.



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Detailed Condition:

Pen and watercolor on wove paper. Some generalized soiling, more obvious in the sky. Backed on card though delaminating in a few of the corners.