



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

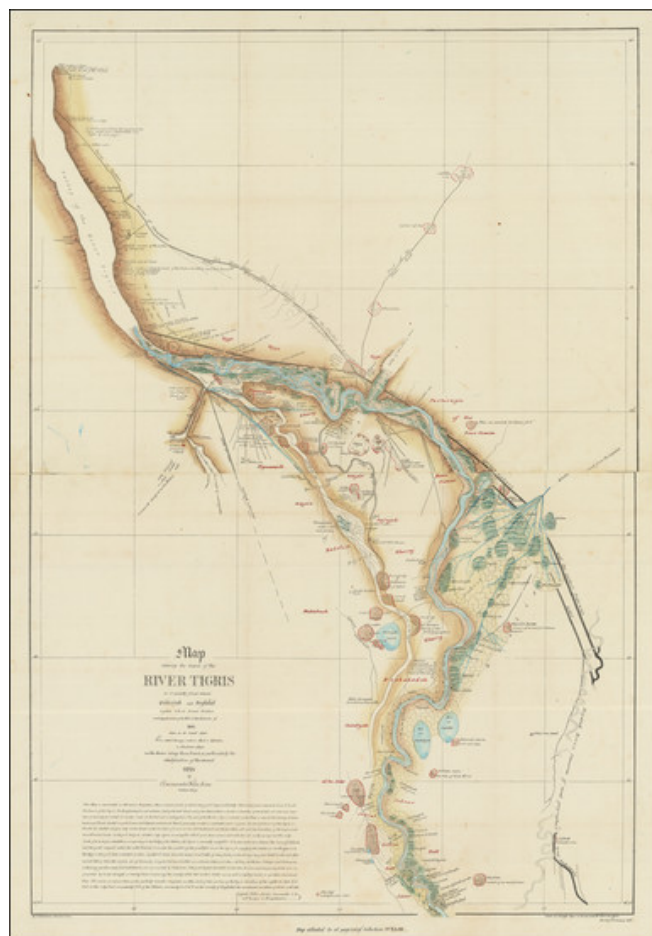
7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

(Bombay Imprint) Map Showing the Course of the River Tigris as it anciently flowed between Qadesiyeh and Baghdad together with its Present Position and Appearance of its Bed in the Autumn of 1850, when it was at its lowest state. From actual Surveys, made in April & September; to illustrate a Paper on the Ruins along these Tracts, & particularly the identification of Ancient Opis by Commander Felix Jones, Indian Navy.

Stock#: 87603
Map Maker: Jones
Date: 1857
Place: Mumbai (Bombay)
Color: Color
Condition: VG+
Size: 23.75 x 34.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

A Rare British Indian Imprint. Printed for the Government at the Bombay Education Society's Press. Authored by of the Most Important Sources on 19th-Century Iraq

Very rare map of the River Tigris above Baghdad, created by the important archeologist and surveyor Commander James Felix Jones.



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This superb map of the central tract of the Tigris is the work of Felix Jones, one of the most influential surveyors in 19th century Mesopotamia, whose published memoirs still constitute one of the best authorities on Ottoman Iraq. Jones (1813-1874) was a British Commander in the Indian Navy and an employee of the East India Company. Few of his contemporaries were as well-informed about Iraq's riverine landscape and its archaeological heritage.

The map is a mix of up-to-date survey work and historical reconstruction. It stretches from Qádesiyeh in the north to Baghdad in the south. In between, Jones plots both the Tigris' current flow and offers a hypothetical reconstruction of its ancient course. The placement of Baghdad in this landscape reveals how the plains and Tigris valley formed a natural culmination point at this ancient capital. The river's current course is shaded blue, while the former path of the waterway is unshaded. Numerous archeological sites line the banks of the rivers, some of which were first discovered by the creators of this map.

The map is highly detailed, including relevant physiography, modern villages and towns, minute contours and river bends, canals and other hydrological features, some topography, vegetation, and a plethora of ancient sites, many of which were known to Western audiences from the Bible. Jones centers it on the site of Opis, whose five mounds are rendered more or less in the middle of the map.

Opis is an ancient Babylonian site on the Tigris not far from modern Baghdad, where Jones resided. It is interesting for several reasons. It is known from Akkadian and Greek texts and was associated with the post-Alexandrian city of Seleucia. Even though several people claimed to have identified it (starting with Ross 1841), the exact location remained a mystery until the late 1980s (Högelmann & Buschmann 1986; Talbert 2000; Parpola & Porter 2001). Jones' map reconstructs the archaeological landscape and offers his hypothesis as to the location of this site.

In 1850 Jones surveyed the old bed of the Tigris, discovered the site of the ancient Opis, and made further research in the vicinity of the Median Wall of Xenophon, constructed when the Ten Thousand invaded Babylon.

The map appeared in Jones' *Memoirs by Commander James Felix Jones, I.N. Steam-Trip to the North of Baghdad, in April 1846...* . The book was compiled and edited by R. Hughes Thomas, Assistant Secretary, Political Department and published in 1857. This extremely rare book is considered one of the pre-eminent books on Ottoman Iraq. Jones and his colleagues conducted sometimes-covert studies of the vicinity of Baghdad for several years, producing what has been termed "an encyclopedia of information on Baghdad



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in the mid-nineteenth century" (Burell). The maps accompanying the report are notable for there extremely-accurate research.

Following publication of this book, Commander Jones would become a political agent in the Persian Gulf and was charged with planning a possible invasion of Persia.

Rarity

The published memoir was compiled and edited by R. Hughes Thomas, Assistant Secretary in the Political Department, and was printed at the Bombay Education Society's Press as a formal government publication. The intact volume of Jones' memoirs and surveys is among the most important sources on Ottoman Iraq in the nineteenth century, and it has consequently become exceedingly rare on the open market. Original maps from his memoirs are just as rare, although price ranges for these remain less established. The map plates from Jones' Memoirs were all printed on thin paper intended for literary publication. As a result, many of the examples removed from the original volume have not survived.

While no records exist for the individual maps, the OCLC records institutional copies of the entire book at Freie Universität Berlin, Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Hamburg (no. 255035454), Institut de France, King's College London, Bibliotheque Nationale Universitaire de Strasbourg, University of Oxford (no. 690339413), and the British Library (no. 562121237).

Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color. Two sheets, joined.