



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

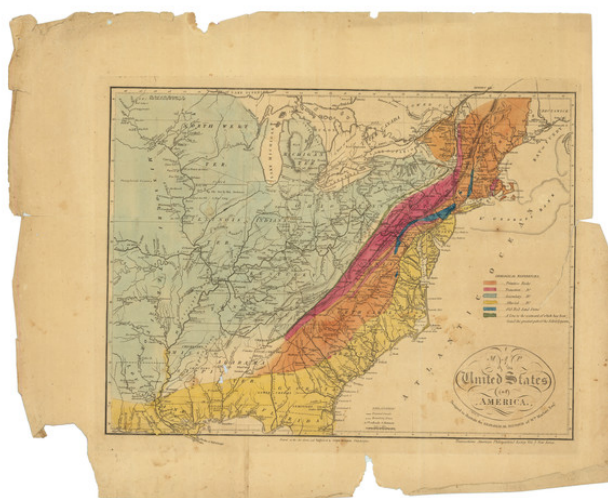
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[Separately Published Example!] Map of the United States of America. Designed to illustrate the Geological Memoir of Wm. Maclure Esq.

Stock#: 90048
Map Maker: Melish / Lesueur
Date: 1817
Place: Philadelphia
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 17.5 x 13 inches
Price: \$ 1,400.00



Description:

A Geological Map of the United States By The Father of American Geology

The Melish-Maclure map of the United States is one of the first geological maps of the United States published in America.

The present example, with massive margins, was found among a collection of papers of Charles Alexandre Lesueur, who was recruited by Maclure to work on the survey which created this map.

This scarce map of the United States, was issued in William Maclure's report, *Observations on the Geology of the United States*. Maclure, known as the "father of American geology," published the first widely available geologic map of the United States in 1809. And while this is the third issue of the map (1809 in Philadelphia and 1811 in Paris), it is "generally considered as the starting point for the geology of North America" (Marcou & Marcou).

The map is color-coded to indicate the location of Primitive Rocks, Transition Rocks, Secondary Rocks, Alluvial Rocks, and Old Red Sand Stone, based on the Wernerian classification system. Also keyed to the legend is a "line to the westward of which has been found the greatest part of the Salt & Gypsum." The map is filled with information on Indian tribes, forts, roads and early settlements. Illinois Territory is located well away from Lake Michigan and bounded on the north by the large North West Territory. Chicago is correctly located, but is on the border between Indiana and North West Territory. Of particular interest are distance notations along several major roads in miles. A legend locates canals, boundary lines



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and roads.

The map is one of the earliest maps to show the newly formed Alabama Territory and identifies a massive Missouri Territory, west of the Mississippi River. Indiana is directly below Lake Michigan, with Illinois Territory pushed far to the West off Lake Michigan and Chicago shown in Indiana.

Maclure (d. 1840) was a very important early American scientist and geologist. He was the founder and President of the Academy of Natural Sciences at Philadelphia, and was also the President for some years of the American Geological Society. His *Observations*. . . is considered the first connected account originally written in English on the geology of the U.S. Maclure became a member of Robert Owen's socialistic community in New Harmony (founded in 1826), became a large land owner in this area, and later started his own splinter group called "Macluria."

Charles Alexandre Lesueur

Charles Alexandre Lesueur (1778-1846) was a French-born artist and naturalist who is perhaps most remembered for his extensive work as artist on Nicolas Baudin's 1800-1804 expedition to Australia and the southern Pacific. In an era of generalist naturalists, Lesueur distinguished himself in a variety of fields, including paleontology, archaeology, ichthyology, and zoology.

A little-known chapter in Lesueur's varied career dates to his time in Philadelphia, where he moved in 1816, shortly after meeting noted Scottish-born American geologist William Maclure. Lesueur quickly became part of the close-knit circle of scientists and artists in Philadelphia (even influencing John James Audubon, with whom he worked teaching art in Mme. Marie Fretageot's girl's boarding).

Lesueur was elected to several American learned societies, including the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and the American Philosophical Society. He published numerous papers on natural history, often illustrating the works himself. It is believed that Lesueur learned the lithographic technique, invented in Europe by Alois Senefelder in the 1790s, while still in Europe. He certainly imported lithographic stones from Europe into the United States at an early date. Another figure of note at this time was Marie Duclos Fretageot - also an associate of William Maclure's - a teacher at a Pestalozzian school in Paris who had studied with Senefelder. Fretageot brought one of the Senefelder's papirographic presses with her to the United States per Maclure's instructions.

Detailed Condition:

Uneven and likely uncut margins on 3 sides. Tear entering the image at the right side of the map and some



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minor loss in Alabama.