



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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Nth. America

Stock#: 90112
Map Maker: Cary
Date: 1804 circa
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 9 x 7.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare map of North America, showing the Transmississippi West on the eve of the Lewis & Clark expedition.

The map has two significant features. The large partially defined area shown as Louisiana is a representation of Spanish Louisiana on the eve of the Louisiana Purchase. Curiously, the map is shaded as being Spanish, along with Mexico (then New Spain). This is likely because the British were unaware of the secretive Third Treaty of San Ildefonso, wherein Napoleon secretly acquired the territory, but Spain continued to administer it, until the Louisiana purchase in 1803. Similarly, British ambitions to Upper California and the the Northwest are illustrated by the pink shading.

Focusing on the river systems above the Pawnee Villages on the Missouri River, a very defined set of rivers is shown flowing east from the Rocky Mountains. This is the cartographic detail found in Arrowsmith's map of North America, which was instrumental in Lewis & Clark's search for a portage across the Rocky Mountains and on to the Pacific. The northern Rocky Mountains tease several option further north in the region then the domain of the Hudson's Bay Company.

A rare and interesting map, which was likely printed sometime in the first decade of the 19th Century, based upon its cartographic content.

Rarity



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This is the first example of the map we have seen.

Detailed Condition: