



Large 4to (360 by 220mm), title, contents, 25 lithograph maps (on 26 map sheets), half calf over brown cloth, lettered in gilt to upper cover.

RARE ATLAS OF INDIA AND THE FAR EAST

The Atlas of India Revised by J. Walker, Esq., Geographer to the Honourable East India Company.

Author

THE SOCIETY FOR THE DIFFUSION OF USEFUL KNOWLEDGE

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Dimensions

360 by 210mm. (14.25 by 8.25 inches).

Notes

Rare atlas covering Asia and the Indian Subcontinent.

The Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge had been set up by Lord Brougham in the 1820s in order to provide affordable educational material for the middle and working classes. Their cartographic output consisted of some 209 maps, covering the whole of the world, and was one of the most successful parts of their business. The business was wound up in 1848, with the maps being sold to Charles Knight and then in 1856 to Edward Stanford.

Edward Stanford (1827-1904) was a highly successful publisher, known for his accurate maps of London. He began his career working for Trelawny Saunders, an enterprising mapmaker who supplied a daily weather chart for the Great Exhibition. Stanford started his own business in 1853, was elected a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society the following year and set about expanding the cartographical aspect of the firm.

Stanford was particularly interested in producing maps of British colonies. He regularly published works on India from the British India Office, and rushed out works in response to imperial developments. For example, a map of the entire country was published in 1857 to take advantage of renewed public interest after the Sepoy Rebellion. India had been steadily brought under the control of the East India Company over the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. After increasing concern over the Company's rule and allegations of corruption, the Crown assumed sovereignty of Britain's Indian possessions in 1858; controlling provinces directly, or through alliances with co-operative princely states.

Bibliography

Provenance

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