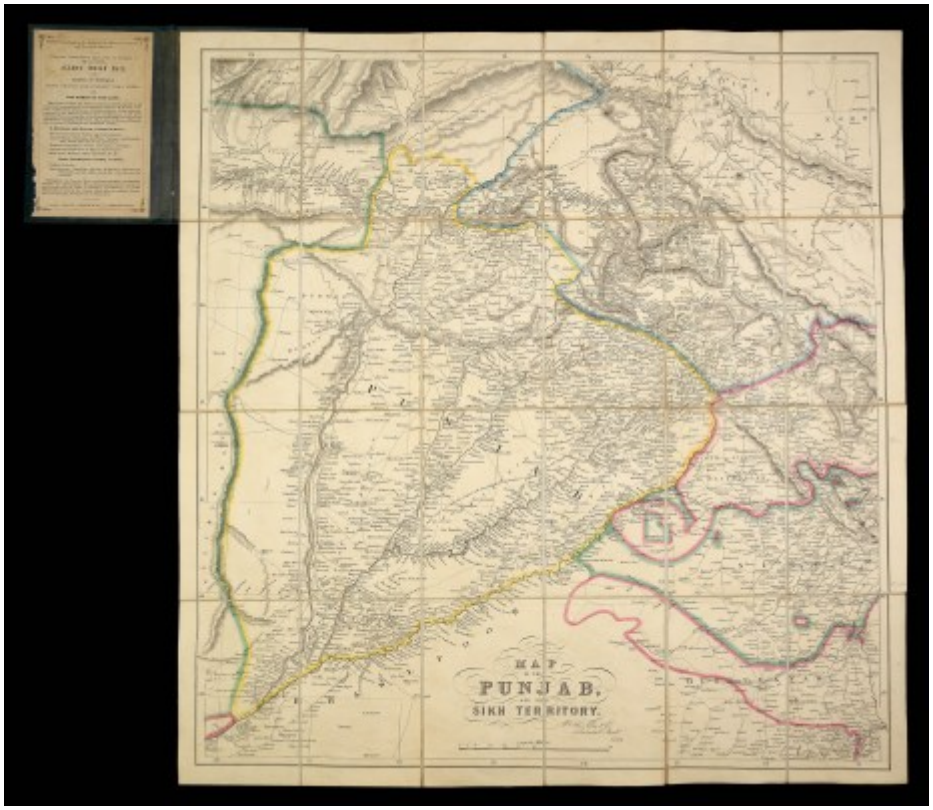


Engraved map hand-coloured in outline, dissected and mounted on linen, folding into original blue blind-stamped cloth covers, with title lettered in gilt.

THE END OF THE SIKH EMPIRE

Map of the Punjab and the Sikh Territory.

Author
ALLEN, William

Publication date
1849.

Publisher
Wiliam Allen and Co.,

Publication place
London,

Physical description
Engraved map hand-coloured in outline, dissected and mounted on linen, folding into original blue blind-stamped cloth covers, with title lettered in gilt.

Dimensions
610 by 570mm (24 by 22.5 inches).

Notes
A map of the Sikh Empire.

Maharaja Ranjit Singh (1780-1839) was the founder and first ruler of the Sikh Empire. A brilliant

warrior, he began as a misldar (baron) in the Punjab, and had taken control of the entire region by 1800. By the time he died, the Sikh Empire covered Punjab, Kashmir, and parts of modern day Afghanistan, Tibet and China. He is most famous for the secular tolerance of his empire, despite his nickname of 'the Lion of Punjab', and for his ownership of the Koh-i-Noor diamond. The Koh-i-Noor was given to him under duress by Shuja Shah Durrani, the deposed Emir of Afghanistan. Ranjit Singh left the diamond to a temple in his will on his death in 1839, but his wishes were ignored by British administrators. A decade later, the Punjab, and thus the diamond, came under the control of the East India Company and the stone was given to Queen Victoria.

When this map was printed the Sikh Empire was on the brink of dissolution. After Ranjit Singh's death, a series of short-lived rulers took the throne, often dying under suspicious circumstances. The East India Company took advantage of this internal weakness to launch the Anglo-Sikh Wars, which culminated in the separation of the empire back into princely states under the supervision of a British Lieutenant Governor in Lahore in 1849. The region was, therefore, of renewed interest to British observers, possibly explaining why Allen chose to issue the map.

The sites of the major battles in the Lahore Rebellion – the final theatre of was of the Second Anglo-Sikh War, which would ultimately lead to the surrender of the Sikhs – are underlined in red on the map. These include: Ramangar, Sadulpur, Chillianwala, and Gujrat.

Rare OCLC records three institutional examples: Bodleian Library, Oxford; University of Manitoba; and University of Southern California.

Bibliography

Provenance

Price: £7000

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