



Engraved map, original hand-colour in outline, on two sheets joined, dissected and mounted on linen, folding into original brown buckram slipcase, red morocco label, lettered in gilt to spine.

BRITISH KNOWLEDGE OF THE SIKH EMPIRE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FIRST ANGLO-SIKH WAR

Map of Kashmir; Ladak & Little Tibet, and the Countries between The Sutluj and the Oxus. Chiefly from the Surveys of G. T. Vigne Esq. Lieut. I. Wood, in Major R. Leech, Bombay Engineers. Lieut. Col. Neil Campbell, Quarter Master Genl. Bombay Establis. and Lieutts. J. Anderson & H. M. Durand, of the Bengal Engineers. Compiled by Order of The Court of Directors of the East India Company, By John Walker.

Author

WALKER, John

Publication date

Nov. 1st, 1842.

Publisher

J. Walker, Geographer to the East India Company,

Publication place

London,

Physical description

Engraved map, original hand-colour in outline, on two sheets joined, dissected and mounted on linen, folding into original brown buckram slipcase, red morocco label, lettered in gilt to spine.

Dimensions

970 by 1260mm (38.25 by 49.5 inches).

Notes

Large-scale map of the Northern Punjab, Kashmir, and Afghan regions, encompassing much of the Sikh Empire, when Britain, under the guise of the East India Company, was beginning to consolidate its power over the Sikh and northern territories. Produced by the leading cartographer of the Indian subcontinent John Walker (fl.1813-1873), and based on the latest surveys from E.I.C. surveyors, the map represents the most accurate depiction of the region to date.

As well as drawing on the latest surveys by the E.I.C., Walker also used the work of Godfrey Thomas Vigne (1801-1863), one of the first Englishmen to explore the north-west areas of Indian subcontinent, and author of 'Travels in Kashmir, Ladak, Iskardo...' (1842). Vigne travelled throughout the region and was notably the first Englishman to visit Kabul, the first person to describe Nanga Parbat, and the first European known to visit Baltistan. Born in Essex, Vigne was a relatively well-known English Cricketer throughout his youth and travelled extensively through the Middle East, India, and Central Asia. The ease with which he received permits in areas such as Kashmir raised suspicions and suggestions that he may have been a spy operating within the Great Game - the battle between Britain and Russia for control of Central Asia.

The left-hand sheet, also published in 1842, would appear in Vigne's work, bearing a different title. The present title acknowledges the addition of the second western sheet, covering the region between the rivers Sutuj and Oxus, and provides information on the East India Company surveyors who were responsible for its mapping.

Although we are able to trace four institutional examples of the the later 1846 edition of the map, which bears extensive additions to the area in and around Lahore (the main theatre of the First Anglo-Sikh War (1845-1846)), we are unable to trace any example of the current 1842 edition.

Bibliography

Provenance

Price: £1400

Inventory reference: 35714