



Engraved map, with hand-colour in part, left and right margin trimmed to neatline, fold-out section on right edge showing Ras al Hadd.

CHESNEY'S AND PLATE'S MAP OF ARABIA AND SYRIA

A Map of Arabia & Syria. Laid down chiefly from Original Surveys Under the Superintendence of Lieut. Colonel Chesney, R.A. F.R.S. And drawn by W.H. Plate, L.L.D. Hon. For. Secretary of the Syro-Egyptian Society of London, M. Geograph. Soc. of Paris, Corresponding Member of the Oriental Society of Germany &c.

Author

CHESNEY, [Francis Rawdon] and W[illiam] H[enry] PLATE

Publication date

1849.

Publisher

Published by Longman, Brown & Co. Paternoster Row,

Publication place

London,

Physical description

Engraved map, with hand-colour in part, left and right margin trimmed to neatline, fold-out section on right edge showing Ras al Hadd.

Dimensions

700 by 650mm (27.5 by 25.5 inches).

Notes

Beautifully engraved map of Arabia and Syria.

The present map was published in 1849, a revised edition of a map first published in 1847, under the title "Arabia", of which only one institutional example is known, held at the British Library.

Cartographically, it is a compilation of various sources. As the note underneath the title explains: "Mesopotamia and its rivers are laid down from Surveys made during the Euphrates Expedition. The Red Sea, the Persian Gulf and the Southern Coast of Arabia, are from those made by the Officers of the Indian Navy. The interior of the peninsula is from various sources, particularly Materials furnished for the accompanying work by Aloys Sprenger M.D. and from documents obtained by Dr Plate".

General Francis Rawdon Chesney (1789-1872) was a British soldier and explorer. Known for his proposal to build the Suez Canal, a proposal which would form the basis of Ferdinand de Lesseps's undertaking, he also oversaw an 1836 survey of the River Euphrates (likely the "Euphrates Expedition" mentioned in the note on the present map), in an attempt to open a faster route between England and India for the East India Company.

The Indian Navy was the naval arm of the English East India Company, which systematically charted the Arabian Coast between 1820 and 1839. In 1820, Captain George Barnes Brucks began to chart the Arabian Gulf; in 1829, Captains Elwon, Moresby, and Careless began to chart the Red Sea; and in 1837, Captain Haines would begin to chart Aden and the southern Arabian coast. So accurate were these surveys, designed to aid shipping, encourage trade, and suppress piracy, that they would become the standard works for much of the coast until well into the twentieth century, as the present map attests.

We have been unable to trace much information about William Henry Plate. He is named as the author of the 1847 "Arabia" map, also a collaboration with Chesney, and of a map of Asia Minor, published by Edward Stanford in around 1849.

Rarity

We have located only five institutional examples of this map: the National Library of Scotland, the University of Glasgow, Harvard University, the British Library, and Qatar National Library.

Bibliography

Provenance

Price: £40000

Inventory reference: 22169