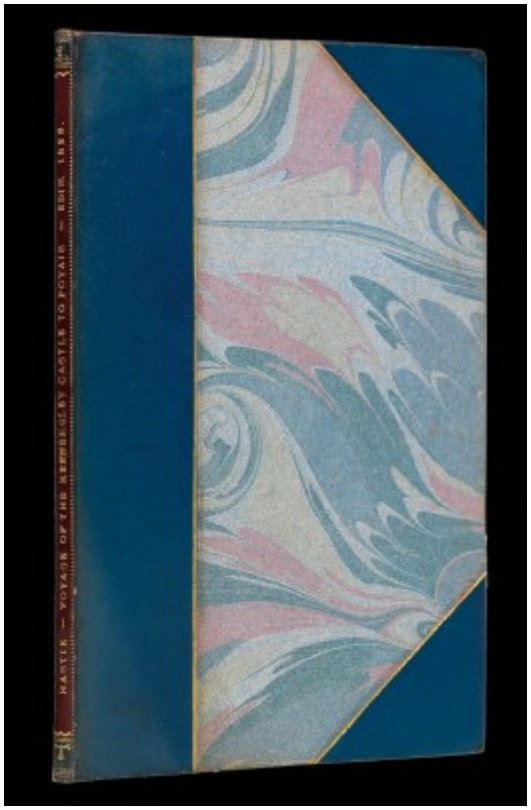


First Edition, 8vo (206 by 122mm), 22pp., blue half calf, marbled boards, dark red label, top edge gilt.

RARE FIRST HAND ACCOUNT OF A POYAISIAN SETTLER

Narrative of a Voyage in the Kennersley Castle from Leith Roads to Poyais. 1823.

Author
HASTIE, James

Publication date
1823

Publisher

Publication place
Edinburgh,

Physical description
First Edition, 8vo (206 by 122mm), 22pp., blue half calf, marbled boards, dark red label, top edge gilt.

Dimensions

Notes
James Hastie provides an account of some of the distressing experiences of the 170 emigrants on their voyage and after their arrival at the desolate Black River on the north coast of South America.

The Poyaisian Scheme (or Fraud) was the brainchild of the Scottish soldier Gregor MacGregor (1786-1845). He began his life of adventuring in Venezuela and Colombia. In 1820 he visited what is

today Honduras and obtained a grant of eight million acres from George Frederick Augustus, king of the Mosquito Indians. Returning to London, MacGregor styled himself as Gregor I, Prince of the Independent State of Poyais. He set about publicising his fictitious state, setting up a land office in London and selling bonds to investors. The scheme began to unravel when, echoing the Darien scheme of the late seventeenth century, a group of around two hundred settlers, mostly Scots, sailed to Poyais. Discovering only a barren and inhospitable swampland, they were saved by a British rescue mission. MacGregor fled to Paris in late 1823 only to continue his activities there. After acquittal in a French fraud trial he returned to London in 1827 and once again began issuing bonds for a watered down version of his Poyaisian Scheme.

Bibliography

Provenance

Price:

Inventory reference: 10775

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