

Lithograph map, fine original hand-colour, backed on japan paper, some minor loss to extremities, skilfully repaired in facsimile.

SATIRICAL MAP OF EUROPE DURING THE CRIMEAN WAR

Comic Map of the Seat of war with Entirely New Features, 1854.

Author
ROCK Bros. & PAYNE

Publication date
May 30th, 1854.

Publisher
Published, By Rock Bothers & Payne London,

Publication place
London,

Physical description
Lithograph map, fine original hand-colour, backed on japan paper, some minor loss to extremities, skilfully repaired in facsimile.

Dimensions
474 by 650mm (18.75 by 25.5 inches).

Notes
The major players in the conflict are boldly caricatured and the map is filled with scores of interesting and humorous symbols. The Russian Bear, wearing the Imperial crown labeled Despotism, brandishes a cat-o-nine-tails whip as he marches towards Asia while looking over his

shoulder to Europe. The bear’s right foot forms the Crimean peninsula where the French and English fleets gather to clip the bear’s claws. The Caucasus appear as a series of cork-exploding volcanoes (Cork As Us Mountains), a reference to the perennial political unrest in the region. In Europe, the Balkans appear in the form of a Turkey wearing a fez and clutching a bottle of port labeled Constantinople. France appears as the Imperial Eagle (a reference to Emperor Napoleon III) girded in a ceremonial sash. The British Isles take the form of an armed lion with Ireland a ragged peasant figure. An English fleet is shown entering the Gulf of Finland, a reference to the British Prime Minister’s use of gunboat diplomacy. Italy takes on the form of a running dog, wearing the papal crown. The double-headed eagle of Austria, looks both east and west, a reference to Austrian neutrality and clumsy attempts at diplomacy shown in a variety of notes tucked under the eagle’s wings and in its beaks. The other European countries form a variety of comical figures. The scale of miles is formed by a sword and balance scale depicting Russia on one side and The Allied Powers on the other. It would take a good deal of study to understand the totality of this map’s political and satirical nuances. Published by Rock Brothers & Payne in London, May 30, 1854. While it is dated earlier than a German map titled Komische Karte des Kriegsschauplatzes that Roderick Barron cataloged as circa 1856, it is unclear which map was published first. Both maps have rarely been seen on the market.

Bibliography

Provenance

Price:

Inventory reference: 1633

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