Large lithographed map with contemporary hand-colour in outline, dissected and laid down on linen, folding into green cloth covers, gilt

VICTORIA DURING THE GOLD RUSH

Map of Victoria Constructed and Engraved at the Surveyor General's Office, Melbourne... G.A. Windsor, Draughtsman, William Slight, Engraver.

Author
WINDSOR, George Andrew; and William SLIGHT

Publication date
August 15th 1872.

Publisher
Published by authority of the Government. Under the direction of A.J. Skene, MA Surveyor General, The Hon. J. J. Casey, President, Board of Land and Works & Comr. of Lands & Survey,

Publication place
Melbourne,

Physical description
Large lithographed map with contemporary hand-colour in outline, dissected and laid down on linen, folding into green cloth covers, gilt

Dimensions
1310 by 1990mm (51.5 by 78.25 inches).

Notes
A detailed map of the state of Victoria. At the time of printing, Victoria was a relatively new colony,

established in 1851. The discovery of gold near Ballarat and Bendigo a few months later set off one of the largest gold rushes in history, as settlers poured in to seek their fortunes. The map reflects the colony's source of population and wealth, showing how settlements cluster around the gold fields.

The map was commissioned and overseen by Alexander Skene and the Hon. J. J. Casey. Alexander Skene was a Scottish surveyor who had a prominent role in land distribution and regulation in Australia. The Hon. J. J. Casey was the Commissioner for Victoria at the time, a colourful figure who went on to become Minister for Justice. A contemporary newspaper reports in 1878 that Casey had complained that someone without a title had preceded him into dinner at the Paris Exposition Universelle, and had told the Prince of Wales himself that Victoria should be given more land.

While his manner may have been distasteful, Casey's claim was built on a solid foundation. Gold exports from Victoria enabled Britain to clear all foreign debts by the end of the century, and the explosion in population, particularly in Melbourne, meant that it was one of the most successful new colonies. However, the growth in population also initiated demands for agricultural and political reform, policies aided by the accurate surveying and mapping of Victoria, and the ultimate aim of this map.

Rare: known in only a handful of examples: the Beinecke, the NLA, the State Library of NSW, and the State Library of Victoria

Bibliography
NLA MAP RM 1945; Tooley 898

Provenance

Price: £5000

Inventory reference: 11822

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