



The first expedition into the interior of Oman by a European explorer

WELLSTED, James Raymond.

Narrative of a Journey from the Tower of Bá-'l-haff, on the Southern Coast of Arabia, to the Ruins of Nakab al Hajar, in April 1835. [&] Narrative of a Journey into the Interior of Omán, in 1835. By Lieutenant Welsted, Indian Navy. Communicated by Sir John Barrow, Bart. Read April 10, 1837 [Extracts from] The Journal of the Royal Geographical Society on London. Volume the Seventh. 1837.

London: John Murray, 1837. Extract, modern cloth-backed marbled boards; title and contents, pp. 19-34, [Oman] 101-114; with coloured map, sheet 415 x 420mm, and uncoloured map, sheet 225 x 160mm.

£2,850

Two extracts from the Journal of the Royal Geographical Society relating to expeditions into the Arabian interior by Lieutenant James Raymond Wellsted. The first extract describes Wellsted's expedition to see pre-Mohammedan ruins in Yemen, illustrated with a sketch map. The second is far more important: the first published account of the first European expedition into the interior of Oman in modern times. It is illustrated with a "Map of Oman in Arabia", engraved by John Arrowsmith, on which Muscat, Nizwah and Ras Al Khaimah on 'The Pirate Coast' are marked, with a vignette of a walled oasis. Wellsted (1805-42), a surveyor in the Indian navy, had participated in Moresby's important survey of the Red Sea in the early 1830s. In 1835 he received permission from the Imam to travel into the interior of Oman in the company of Lieut. F.



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Whitelock, recorded on this map. When his paper was read at the Royal Geographical Society his work was rewarded with fellowships of both the R.G.S. and the Astronomical Society. Wellsted returned to Oman in the winter of 1836 but, delirious with fever, he put a pistol in his mouth and fired both barrels, escaping death but leaving serious wounds in his upper jaw. He never completely recovered, dying in London in his mid-thirties

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