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The Attack and Defeat of the American Fleet under Benedict Arnold, by the Kings Fleet Commanded by Sir Guy Carleton, upon Lake Champlain, the 11th of October 1776. London, Dec. 3, 1776 . . .

Stock#: 50586
Map Maker: Faden
Date: 1776
Place: London
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG
Size: 18.5 x 16.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Unrecorded First State of Faden's Plan of the Battle of Valcour Island -- Sir Guy Carleton Named As the Commanding Officer of the British Forces

Nice example of Faden's battle plan of the Battle of Valcour Island, one of the rarest of all printed battle plans for the American Revolution.

Faden's plan is the definitive record for Benedict Arnold's engagement with the British fleet at Valcour Island, on Lake Champlain. The engagement was the high point in Benedict Arnold's military career, although he would later become the most famous traitor of the Revolution. Faden's plan, which was reportedly derived from, "a sketch taken by an Officer on the Spot," accurately depicts the movements of the two naval squadrons, as well as the tracks of the retreat of the American survivors back to Fort Ticonderoga on the evening following the initial action.

While the British had technically defeated the Americans at Valcour Island, Arnold's delaying tactics forced the British to return to Canada for the winter, thereby delaying the British plan to march these



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forces south to join General Howe on the Hudson River.

The map originally bore the name of Sir Guy Carleton, the commander of the British Forces at Valcour Island. However, once it became clear that the battle had been a failure for the British, Faden was ordered to remove Carleton's name most likely because the British viewed Valcour Island as a significant military failure, leading Carleton or his supporters to ask that Faden remove all evidence of Carleton's command. Nebenzahl notes that, "It is generally conceded that if the British had reached Albany that winter the American Revolution could have collapsed altogether."

Faden published a series of famous battle plans for the Revolution, of which this example is the rarest and is especially desirable with the additional text panels below the plan.

The present map is an unrecorded state of the first edition of the map, naming Guy Carleton as commanding officer of the British Fleet. There are recorded examples of the first state without the text below the map, but the edition with the text Panel and Carleton's name is not recorded by Nebenzahl or Tooley and was unknown to Streeter.

The second edition replaces Guy Carleton's name with Pringle's name in the title. This edition is known in 2 states, one with text, one without.

Detailed Condition:

Minor repair to the right of Isle de St. Michell and several minor marginal tears, expertly repaired on the verso.