Barry Lawrence Ruderman
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A Chart of the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays. Compiled and Published By Fielding Lucas Junr.

Stock#: 1002HR
Map Maker: Lucas Jr.

Date: 1852
Place: Baltimore
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 40 x 29 inches

Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare and highly desireable chart of the Chesapeake and Delaware Rivers by Fielding Lucas. One of the most decorative and sought after 19th Century charts of the Chesapeake, from one of America's first great map makers, and the only chart published by Lucas. The chart appears on the cover of Guthorn's *United States Coastal Charts, 1783-1861.*

Shows inland navigation on the rivers as far upstream as Philadelphia, Port Deposit, Baltimore, Washington, and for considerable distances up the Rappahannock, York and James Rivers. Soundings extend along the eastern shore into the lower Chester River, Eastern Bay, the mouth of the Choptank, and Tangier Sound. The entrances to both major bays depict the major shoals, and the bays on the Atlantic side of the peninsula are sketched in. There are four profile viewss of the shore, and tide tables for both

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bays. The present example also bears the paste down label of Hagger & Brother, the leading purveyors of Nautical & Scientific Instruments in Baltimore in the early 1850s.

The Maryland Historical Society notes " "Chart of the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays" is a prime product of Fielding Lucas' refined craftsmanship. The chart includes soundings, the location of shoals, light boats and light houses, with short descriptions of the lights carried by the different boats. Two noteworthy features are the "Tide Tables" for the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays and the series of views of Cape Henry, Smiths Point Light House, Windmill Point and Cape Henlopen. These views had appeared on Anthony De Mayne's "Survey of the Chesapeake" of 1814. The chart includes three scale bars, for use between 37 and 38 degrees, 38 and 39 degrees, and 39 and 40 degrees."

As noted by the Maryland State Archives in its description of the 1832 edition of the chart (Huntingfield Map Collection, S1832); "Lucas' primary innovation in this chart was the use of color, not adopted by the successor agencies of the US. Coast Survey until the 20th Century. . . . This was one of the first charts to depict the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, completed in 1829. . . The configuation of the shoals is much more detailed than in many charts of the period." Lucas periodically updated the map between 1832 and 1859.

Fielding Lucas, the only map and chart maker operating in Maryland at the time, first issued this chart in 1829. Morrison & Hansen note that it represented an innovated use of color, which was not employed by the US Coast Survey or its successors until the 20th Century. Morrison & Hanson note that three of the four views on the map derive from British Admiralty sources. The present example is backed on linen and was used as a working chart. It is a remarkable example, in clean and attractive condition, with only minor soiling and other faults. Lucas was one of the most celebrated early 19th Century map makers. His seperately issued maps are rare on the market.

The present example has especially fine original color.

Detailed Condition:
Minor soiling, with two spots toward the bottom of the map. Original linen, with original chart seller's advertising broadside plate on the verso.