



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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A Plan of the Attack of Fort Sullivan, near Charles Town in South Carolina, by a Squadron of His Majesty's Ships, on the 28th of June 1776 . . .

Stock#: 11950
Map Maker: Faden
Date: 1776
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 14.5 x 11 inches + text
Price: SOLD



Description:

The rare first state of Faden's map showing the British attack on Fort Sullivan at the entrance to Charleston Harbor.

The British public had an insatiable appetite for battle plans and maps depicting progress of the conflict with its American colonies. The most prolific publisher was William Faden, who was granted official access to many manuscript works sent by soldiers and surveyors. These provided the most accurate details of the battles of the Revolutionary War. The present map depicts one of the most important conflicts of the War fought on Southern soil.

In early 1776, General Clinton was ordered to invade the South, where the British believed the loyal Tories would join them and reclaim the region for England. Clinton sailed from Boston where he was to meet with a British fleet under Commodore Sir Peter Parker and additional troops under Lord Cornwallis. While



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Clinton sailed in January 1776, it was not until the end of May that Cornwallis and Parker joined his force.

The Americans were able to prepare for Clinton's attack on Charleston, and constructed a fort at the mouth of Charleston Harbor on Sullivan's Island. Though not yet completed when Clinton's expeditionary force landed, Fort Sullivan proved effective in defending Charleston. Because the maps of the area supplied to Clinton showed an easy crossing to the mainland, Clinton's army landed on Long Island, north of Fort Sullivan. The crossing was not as easy as the map's indicated, leaving Clinton's troops unable to participate in the ensuing attack.

Parker bombarded the American fort, then under the command of Colonel William Moultrie. Despite its state of partial completion, Fort Sullivan withstood the attack and the returned cannon fire caused significant destruction to the British fleet. Parker was forced to withdraw, and Clinton's expedition ended in failure.

Faden's map shows the position of the British troops on Long Island, Fort Sullivan and Parker's fleet during the bombardment. An inset plan of the fort is included in the top left. This is the very rare first state of the map, containing a dedication to Parker and an account of the battle.

Detailed Condition: