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Baye et Port de Boston Tire des Manuscrits de M. le Chevalier de la Rigaudiere Lieutenant de Vaissau du Roy . . .

Stock#: 20306
Map Maker: Le Rouge
Date: 1756
Place: Paris
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 18 x 13 inches
Price: \$4,800.00



Description:

Unrecorded chart of Boston, based upon the manuscript maps taken from the voyage of Rigaudiere, at the outset of the French & Indian War. The chart extends from Nahant Bay and Charles Town to Hingham, Meneticu and Beacon Hill, and includes town illustrations of Boston, Charles Town, Dorchester, Bantrey, Milton, Meneticu and Hingham, along with several unnamed towns.

Le Rouge's chart reflects a series of detailed soundings and anchorages taken in Boston Harbor, along with an illustration of a 3 masted sailing vessel anchored off Boston. Many islands, bays, points, shoals and other harbor details are also shown.



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**Baye et Port de Boston Tire des Manuscrits de M. le Chevalier de la Rigaudiere
Lieutenant de Vaissau du Roy . . .**

In 1756, the French, who were keen to protect their interests in North America at the commencement of the Seven Years War, dispatched an army across the North Atlantic under the command of Louis-Joseph, Marquis de Montcalm. Among other notables who joined the cause, Louis-Antoine de Bougainville secured a position as Aide-de-camp to Montcalm. The young Bouganville sailed from Brest on the Licorne on April 3, 1756. From letters written by Bouganville, it is known that he talked extensively to the ship's captain, Chevalier de la Rigaudiere, who was apparently responsible for the manuscripts which were the source for this chart.

It is known the Rigaudiere's ship arrived in Quebec in May 1756. It is reasonable to surmise that the manuscripts maps referenced in this chart were drawn from this military voyage to America, although to date we have uncovered no records of Rigaugiere's other activities in America, except that Rigaudiere is also known to have created a plan of Louisbourg during the same period, also engraved by Le Rouge.

While Le Rouge did produce maps of Boston during the American Revolution, this is a vastly different production, which does not appear in any of the standard references on the mapping of Boston or in any American institutional collections. The map was discovered pasted to the verso of a rare (unrecorded?) plan of Cartagena (Nouveau Plan De Cartagene Avec les Derneieres Attaques des Forts Par L'Amiral Vernon), printed in Amsterdam by Chez Vandels and based upon an English map of 1741. We cannot find any reference to this engraver or the map.

A truly extraordinary chart, providing a contemporary record of a French survey of Boston Harbor and provides anecdotal evidence of French manuscript charts of Boston Harbor prepared by a French Naval Captain at the outset of the French & Indian War. The only examples located are in the Boston Public Library, Yale and a private American collection.

Detailed Condition:

Upper margin and right side of upper neat line reinstated in facsimile. Lower margin, neat line, scale and a bit of geographical information reinstated in facsimile. A bit of soiling and mottling.