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Barbaodes, Surveyed by William Mayo, Engraved and Improved By by Thomas Jefferys, Geographer to the King . . . 1794

Stock#: 28250
Map Maker: Laurie & Whittle
Date: 1794
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 24 x 18.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine full color example of Thomas Jefferys' map of Barbadoes, from The West-India Atlas.

This large-scale map is based on William Mayo's important survey of the island. Mayo conducted the first large-scale survey of the island, fixing the legal descriptions of the parishes. It was not until the Admiralty survey of 1873 that Mayo's map ceased to be the standard representation for maps of Barbados.

The map shows the eleven parishes with their areas listed in a key below. It depicts the ports, settlements, forts, churches, roads, and sugar plantations with landowners' names. Relief is shown by hachures and two finely drawn landfall approach views for mariners are engraved between the title and compass rose.

In describing the West India Atlas, Rumsey notes:

This is a superb atlas of the West Indies and a companion atlas to Jeffery's American Atlas also first issued



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in 1775. The latest date on the charts in this copy is 1788 (The Cape Verd Islands). . . . Jefferys died in 1771; Sayer and Bennet acquired his materials in preparation for this atlas, and published the atlas posthumously under his name (as they did with the American Atlas) in 1775. The heart of this atlas and the most detailed part is the sixteen sheet large chart and index sheet of the whole of the West Indies. The rest of the atlas consists of charts of the Atlantic Islands and the British Channel, as well as individual maps and charts of seventeen islands in the West Indies. . . . Phillips shows issues of 1775, 1781, 1787, 1794, 1796, 1807, and 1818. With the 1794 and later editions, 20 maps are added of various additional islands. Sayer and Bennet also published in 1775 a smaller version of this atlas called "The West India Islands: From Actual Survey and Observations..." that consisted of the same text, a general chart of the Islands, and the same sixteen or seventeen (depending on the edition) charts of the islands that appear in the larger version (P3942). Finally, Jefferys himself published in 1762 "A Description of the Spanish Islands and Settlements on the Coast of the West Indies" which was issued in quarto, with a general chart and 32 maps and plans of harbors and towns . . .

William Mayo was born in Poulshot, Wilts County in southwestern England in 1684.

In 1709, Mayo and his brother Joseph moved to Barbadoes, where a cousin had settled some time earlier. There he established himself as a surveyor, and in due course married the daughter of a Bridgetown merchant. In 1717 Mayo received a commission to make a map of Barbadoes, which he accomplished with such skill that Governor William Tryon urged the English Board of Trade to purchase it and to grant Mayo a patent enabling him to sell his map on a commission basis. The map also gained him election to membership in the Royal Society of London.

Thereafter, Mayo would move to Virginia, where he would go on to complete the first survey of the Virginia-North Carolina boundary, including the then thought to be impossible surveying of the Dismal Swamp.

Detailed Condition: