



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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A Chorographical Map, of the Country, round Philadelphia / Carte Particuliere, des Environs de Philadelphie

Stock#: 32709
Map Maker: Covens & Mortier / Romans
Date: 1778
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 13 x 11.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Finely engraved map of the region around Philadelphia, showing the Theater of War in the area of Philadelphia during the American Revolution.

Originally engraved by Bernard Romans in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1778, the map is one of the rarest maps of the American Revolutionary War period. This edition of the map was issued by the Amsterdam firm of Covens & Mortier, based closely on one published by Bernard Romans in New Haven, Connecticut in 1778. It depicts the region within a roughly 75-mile radius of Philadelphia, including much of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware. Major topographical features are shown (with elevations in the archaic "molehill" style), as are rivers and streams, major roads, hundreds of place names, and county and state boundaries. The map is, among other things, one of the earliest to identify Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania as "States" rather than "Colonies" or "Provinces."

Romans produced his map to illustrate the Philadelphia campaign of 1777, which began in August with British General Howe's landing of his troops at the head of the Chesapeake, followed by his defeat of Washington at the Brandywine on September 11, and the capture of Philadelphia at the end of the month. Washington retreated westward and by December the Continental Army was encamped at Valley Forge.



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The map shows the "tracks" of Howe's advance and Washington's retreat, as well as the "Grand American Winter Camp" at Valley Forge.

Bernard Romans was born in Delft, Netherlands about 1720. He learned mapmaking and surveying in England, before moving to the Colonies in 1757. He served as a Surveyor in Georgia, where he would rise to become Deputy Surveyor General in 1766 and one of the most important Colonial mapmakers. He is perhaps best known for his extensive survey and mapping of the Coastal Waters of East Florida. William Gerard De Braham, the Surveyor General for the Southern Colonies appointed him Deputy Surveyor General for the Southern District in 1773 and wrote *A Concise Natural History of East and West Florida*, published in 1775, one of the most important works on Florida.

When war broke out in 1775, Romans was in Boston where Paul Revere was engraving Romans' maps of Florida. Romans enlisted in the American cause and was appointed a Captain and served with Benedict Arnold and Nathaniel Greene in their attacks on Fort George and Fort Ticonderoga. Following the Battle of Bunker Hill, Romans published *An Exact View of the Late Battle of Charleston, June 17, 1775* and a map of the area around Boston, entitled *The Seat of War In America*, which he dedicated to John Hancock.

Romans served until June 1778, when he resigned his commission. He rejoined the Southern Campaign in 1780, during which time he was captured by the Royal Navy and imprisoned until the end of the War. He died returning home after the War in 1784 (one account put forth by his family is that he was murdered and thrown overboard).

Romans published several other significant maps of the American Revolution in New Haven, each of which is essentially unobtainable. In 1778 Romans advertised for sale *A Chorographical Map of the Northern Department of North America* and *A Chorographical Map of the Country Round Philadelphia*. He also published *Connecticut and parts adjacent*, with Abel Buell.

The appearance of three of the Romans maps in editions published in Amsterdam shortly after the publication of the original New Haven versions of the map is a topic worthy of investigation. It is reasonable to speculate that Romans used his Dutch roots to have a set of the maps sent back to Amsterdam for publication.

The original Romans map is essentially unobtainable. OCLC locates only the copies at John Carter Brown and the Connecticut Historical Society for the original New Haven imprint. For the Coven & Mortier edition, we are aware of no other examples of this map having been offered for sale at auction or in a dealer catalog in the past 30 years, although one example was acquired privately by a collector through the Arkway firm in the early 1990s (and is currently on display on the Boston Public Library website).



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Detailed Condition:

Minor loss in lower margin, just affecting the publisher's credit