



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

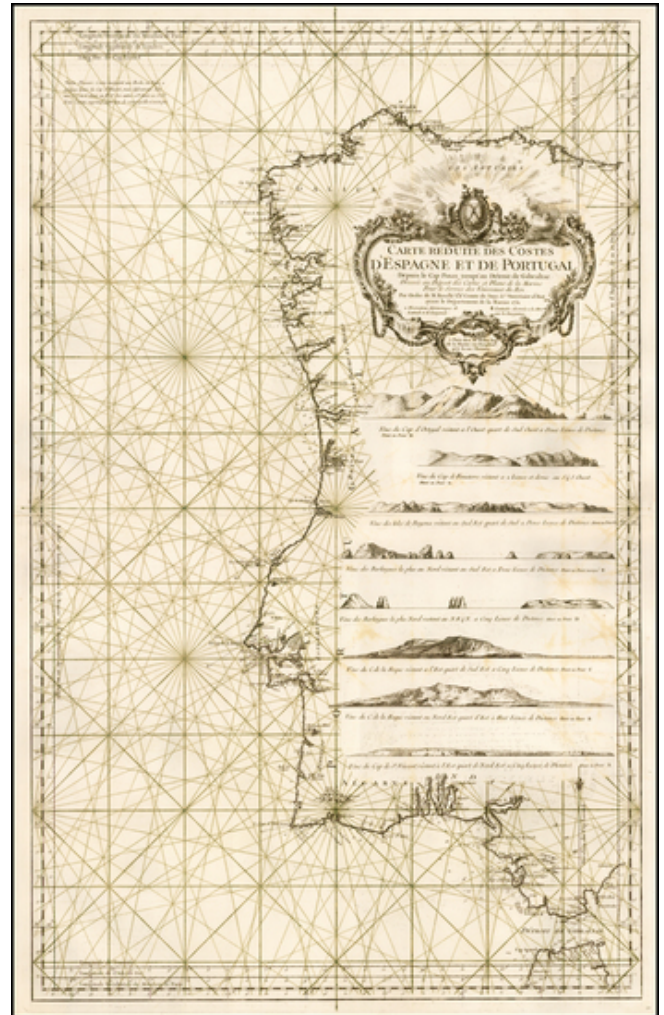
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**Carte Reduite Des Costes D'Espagne et de Portugal Depuis le Cap Pinas jusqu'au
Detroit de Gibraltar . . . 1751**

Stock#: 35800
Map Maker: Bellin
Date: 1751
Place: Paris
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 34 x 21 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine large format sea chart of the Iberian Coast, extending from Asturias and Galicia to Portugal and then southwards to Andalusia and the Straits of Gibraltar.

This finely engraved sea chart was one of the 18th-century's most important maps to depict one of Europe's busiest shipping lanes - the Straits of Gibraltar - the gateway to the Mediterranean Sea. It shows the key British base of Gibraltar (in British hands since 1704), approaches to Cadiz (the Headquarters of the Spanish Navy), and the great Portuguese ports of Lisbon and Oporto.



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Bellin's chart is based on extensive surveys and astronomical readings by mariners, and was considered to be the finest available chart of the region during its time. Symbols noted in the title cartouche locate the specific points, usually at headlands, where mariners took observations. The interior of the map is graced by 8 coastal profiles nautical of key headlands. The composition is completed by an elegant cartouche, and the seas are traversed by rhumb lines.

This chart was produced by Jacques-Nicolas Bellin (1703-1772), France's preeminent maritime cartographer and the Premier Ingénieur of the Depot de la Marine (the French Hydrographical Office), as well as the Official Hydrographer of the King Louis XV. The chart was part of Bellin's greatest work, the monumental sea atlas, *Hydrographie française* (1753).

The present example is an especially fine example with the additional rhumb lines not present on most examples of the map, further evidence of the intended use of the chart for navigation at sea.

Detailed Condition: