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Chart of the Atlantic Ocean, with the British, French & Spanish Settlements in North America, and the West Indies

Stock#: 35856
Map Maker: Jefferys
Date: 1753
Place: London
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG+
Size: 24 x 18.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare example of Sheet IV of the first edition of John Green's (aka Braddock Mead's) map, one of the rarest and most sought after Colonial American maps.

The present map of the eastern North America, the West Indies and the north Atlantic Ocean, although complete in an of itself, is one of six parts of the exceeding rare *A chart of North and South America including the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, with the nearest coasts of Europe, Africa and Asia*. Made in the run-up to the Seven Years' War (the French & Indian War), its purpose was to inform the viewer about the locations and extent of the various colonial territories controlled by Britain and her perennial nemeses France and Spain.

The map employs color-coding to show the territories of Britain (orange), France (green), Spain (yellow). Notably, the primacy of British claims is shown to an extreme extent, for example, New England is depicted to extend northwards to include New Brunswick, and the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, territory that, in reality, was firmly under French control. Moreover, Britain's colonial claims to strips of land cutting across the continent to the Pacific are shown to sever French Louisiana from Canada. The map was part of a campaign orchestrated by certain government ministers and Anti-Gallican (anti-French) printers to use maps and prints as propaganda to encourage Britain to declare war on France in order to defend Britain's territorial claims.

The cartography predates the rendering of eastern North America presented by John Mitchell's *Map of the British and French Dominions in North America* (1755). Florida is shown to be a peninsula (not a series of



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islands), the Great Lakes are reasonably well-formed and eastern Canada is derived from the maps of Jacques-Nicolas Bellin. Most curious is the "New Discovered Sea" in northern Quebec, a cartographic misconception that was soon dispelled.

Green was evidently very proud of his map for he provides three tables comparing his (supposedly correct) placement of key locations (viz. latitude and longitude) with that provided on other maps, including Henry Popple's *A Map of the British Empire in North America* (1733) and recent French maps by Bellin and J.B.B. D'Anville.

The map is made all the more intriguing by the identity of the maker, whose alias is given as John Green, Esquire, but who was in fact one Braddock Mead (c.1688-1757). Born in Dublin, Mead moved to London in the early 18th Century, producing several works of note, beginning with a book on the Construction of Globes in 1717. Sometime thereafter, he became embroiled in a scheme to defraud a 12 year old Irish heiress out of her fortune, which included a failed plan to kidnap and either marry her or extort a large ransom for her safe return, which resulted in his spending the majority of his life underground on the fringes of London's map and print publishing business (and adopting the his alias). In addition to the present map, Green created *A Map of the Most Inhabited Part of New England* (1757), also published by Jefferys, one of the most important colonial-era maps of the region.

The entire *A chart of North and South America including the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans*, with all of its six parts is exceeding rare. The present fourth part, *Chart of the Atlantic Ocean, with the British, French & Spanish Settlements in North America, and the West Indies* also very rarely appears on the market, and this example is especially fine, with original outline color and crisp, full margins.

Detailed Condition: