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**Carta De Las Islas y Parte de Costa Firme segun los trabajos mas Fidedignos nacionales
y extranjeros. . . 1865 . . . correcciones en 1868**

Stock#: 48759
Map Maker: Direccion Hidrografica de
Madrid
Date: 1868
Place: Madrid
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 38 x 24 inches
Price: \$750.00



Description:

Scarce sea chart of the eastern Caribbean Ocean and the contiguous coastline of South America, published by the Spanish Hydrographical Office, *la Direcci ón de Hidrograf ía*. Originally issued in 1865, this is a rarer, updated version of 1868. Spanish sea charts of this region in the mid-nineteenth century are quite scarce on the market.

Founded in 1797, the *Direcci ón* was to serve as a replacement for the *Casa de la Contrataci ón*, which from 1503 to 1790 housed Spain's navigational charts. A *Depósito Hidrográfico* had existed since 1770,



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but the *Dirección* was more than a deposit-it was the center for the storage, creation, and dissemination of Spain's hydrographic knowledge, similar to the Royal Navy's Hydrographic Office (1795) and the French *Dépôt des cartes et plans de la Marine* (1724).

This chart is part of a series on the *Mar de las Antillas* and depicts sailing information. Different letters indicate the varying types of conditions common in the area such as sand (A), coral (Cl), stone (P), and stretches where no bottom was detected. There are also lighthouses (F), and floating lighthouses (FF) labeled. The lighthouses were of especial interest to a former user, as they have been marked with a red line and yellow circle on this copy.

The chart was a product of collaboration, not just between the sources of raw information-both Spanish and foreign-but between the compiler, S. Bregante, the engraver, I[gnacio] Tubao, and the letter engraver, F. Bregante. All three men produced numerous charts for the *Dirección* in the mid-nineteenth century. This particular collaboration would cost a consumer 3 pesetas, or an entire day's work in 1868. It cost 4 pesetas if one was overseas.

Detailed Condition: