Plan de la ville et rade de Cartagene et de ses Forts

Stock#:   50332
Map Maker: Le Pautre

Date: 1698
Place: Paris
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 29 x 14 inches

Price: SOLD

Description:

Scarce Chart Celebrating Baron de Pointis's Successful Pirate Raid on Cartagena.

Engraved folding map published in the event of the successful raid on Cartagena by the pirate Baron de Pointis.

Cartagena was one of the richest and best fortified of the Spanish towns in the new world. Cartagena was a major port of the Spanish Main, located near the beginning of the trade route. From its founding in 1538, it was the subject of a number of Pirate attacks, including John Hawkins in 1568, Francis Drake in 1572 and Henry Morgan in 1668. After Morgan, the next major pirate raid on Cartagena was lead by Bernard Desjean, Baron de Pointis, in 1697.

By 1695, the French Navy had declined to the point that it could no longer face the English and Dutch in an open sea battle and therefore had switched to a pirate / guerrilla style of naval warfare. Desperate to raise money to continue the War of the Grand Alliance, France began to look to the New World for legitimate and illegitimate trade opportunities. Bernard Desjean, Baron de Pointis, active in the Caribbean from the beginning of the war, was able to convince King Louis XIV of France to let him try a daring attack on Cartagena in 1697.

Pointis received command of a fleet of seven capital ships, three frigates, and some smaller vessels and was given instructions to proceed in search of galleons and capture such places in the Caribbean as Pointis deemed appropriate. The squadron left from Brest, France, on January 7, 1697, and arrived at Saint-Domingue in the West Indies on March 3rd. Pointis requested assistance from governor Jean du Casse, who gave his support only reluctantly, as he preferred an attack on Portbello. One month later, a fleet with 1,200 soldiers and 650 buccaneers appeared before Cartagena.

Plan de la ville et rade de Cartagene et de ses Forts

The renowned Spanish defences were not what they had once been, and Pointis conquered both fortresses which defended Cartagena relatively easily, losing only sixty men. The French force disembarked on the island of Tierrabomba to attack the Castle San Luis de Bocachica, defended by Don Sancho Ximeno who would repel the attack bravely and then would be betrayed by his own soldiers, mostly black slaves which took the first chance to hand over the weapons and open the castle doors to the French. The French advanced slowly towards the city until seizing the Castle San Felipe from where they bombarded the Puerta de la Media Luna, opened a breach and stormed in seizing Getsemaní after fighting the last defenders of the place. The invaders stayed almost a month in the city, time during which they would rob and sack all the inhabitants and take the religious jewels, failing to fulfill the surrender agreement.

Between May 6th and 24th, the French plundered the city, accumulating loot valued at ten to twenty million livres. Pointis then set sail directly for France, cheating his buccaneer allies of their promised share of the loot. Outraged, the buccaneers returned and plundered the city once more.

On his return voyage to France, Pointis managed to avoid the English admiral John Nevell, whose squadron had been diverted from Cadiz, Spain, to pursue the French privateer. After a three-day chase, Nevell had captured only one ship. Unfortunately for him, this was a hospital ship infested with yellow fever, which now spread through the English and Dutch fleets. The disease killed 1,300 English sailors, six captains, and Admiral Nevell himself; only one captain in the Dutch fleet survived.

The French did not escape unscathed, as yellow fever spread through their fleet, too, killing hundreds of sailors. However, Pointis made it back to France and gave Louis XIV his share of two million livres. He published *Relation de l'expédition de Carthagène faite par les François en 1697* in Amsterdam, in 1698.

Pierre Le Pautre

The engraver "le Pautre" is not identified, but would almost certainly be one of the third generation of Le Pautre architects, artists, and engravers, which began its lineage with Adrien Le Pautre. Le Pautre's sons, Jean Le Pautre and Antoine Le Pautre continued in their father's tradition, rising to positions of considerable note in France, but both of whom died well before 1697, when this map was engraved. Among the third generation of Le Pautre's the most probably engraver was Pierre LePautre (1648-1716), son of Jean, who was a well-regarded engraver. Antoine's sons, Jean Le Pautre (1648-1735) was a sculptor and Claude Le Pautre (b. 1649) was an architect. Pierre LePautre's son, Pierre II Le Pautre, may also have been the engraver.

Pierre Le Pautre II won the Prix de Rome in 1683, and the following year he went to the Académie de France in Rome, where he was a talented and much-praised student. Among his Roman works were two copies after the Antique executed for Louis XIV, the marble groups *Faun with a Kid* (1685-87; Paris,

7407 La Jolla Boulevard   www.raremaps.com   (858) 551-8500
La Jolla, CA 92037   blr@raremaps.com

Plan de la ville et rade de Cartagene et de ses Forts

Louvre) and *Meleager* (1687-92; on loan to the Hôtel Matignon, Paris). Both demonstrate his early mastery of complex Baroque compositional effects." The LePautres, with the various spellings of their name, were a large family of several generations of architects, sculptors, engravers, designers of ornamental effects. The artists' backgrounds in Rome and in Spain gave them much experience with the ancient and Renaissance sources of the buildings and ornaments of these bold and forceful engravings.

Detailed Condition:
Printer's creases in the middle of the right edge of the sheet.