



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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(858) 551-8500
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[Plymouth Bay, Cape Cod Bay, Duxbury Bay]

Stock#: 51249
Map Maker: Des Barres
Date: 1781
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 19 x 26 inches
Price: \$3,900.00



Description:

Des Barres Chart of Plymouth Bay, Cape Cod Bay and Duxbury Bay

Fine detailed sea chart of the area around Plymouth and Duxbury, Massachusetts, and covering Cape Cod Bay, Duxbury Bay and Plymouth Bay, published in London by Des Barres.

The map shows topographical features, the town of Plymouth, roads, buildings, soundings, farms and coastal features.

J.F.W. Des Barres and *The Atlantic Neptune*

Des Barres chart of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard was issued both separately and in *The Atlantic Neptune*, an atlas of charts and views of North American waters used by British navigators throughout the Revolution. The charts were of an extraordinarily high quality and remained the standard for decades,



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becoming the standard reference work for cartographic information used by American and European engravers and publishers for decades thereafter. On a broad scale basis, it was not until the United States Coast Survey commenced issuing maps in the middle of the 19th Century that a more detailed and systematic charting of the Northeast was made under the auspices of a single project.

The charts of the *Atlantic Neptune* which focus on New England were based on work overseen by Samuel Holland, a Dutch-born surveyor and engineer who entered British service during the French and Indian War. After the war, Holland had proposed "an accurate and just Survey... upon... a general scale and uniform plan" of North America east of the Mississippi. This was to be a "geodetic" survey following the most advanced methods then in use in Europe, but applied for the first time in North America: the locations of control points would be established by rigorous astronomical observation, intermediate areas pinpointed by triangulation, and details sketched in from direct observation.

Holland's proposal was approved by the British Colonial offices, and in 1764 Holland was named Surveyor General of both the Province of Quebec and the Northern District of North America, from the Potomac to the border with Canada. After several years work in the Canadian Maritimes, from 1770-1774, he focused on the New England coast, making his headquarters in Portsmouth. From Portsmouth, Holland sent out survey teams headed by his deputies Charles Blaskowitz, James Grant, George Sproule, Thomas Wheeler and Thomas Wright, utilizing the sloop *HMS Canceaux*.

Holland's finished surveys were sent to England, where Des Barres oversaw the work necessary for their engraving and publication. The demand for charts was high in those unsettled times, and Des Barres' operation soon occupied two townhouses and 20 assistants in compiling, drafting and correcting the charts. While *The Atlantic Neptune* was usually made up to order and had no standard collation, it ultimately extended to five sections: Nova Scotia, New England, the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence (based on the work of James Cook), the coast south of New York, and American coastal views.

Detailed Condition:

Old Color.