



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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Carte Reduite Du Golphe De St. Laurent Contenant L'Isle De Terre Neuve et Partiede la Coste Des Esquimaux L'Isle Royale, L'Isle St. Jean et Cellee D'Anticosti &c. . . MDCCLIV (variant edition, with annotations)

Stock#: 54797
Map Maker: Bellin
Date: 1754 circa
Place: Paris
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 34 x 21 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The most important 18th Century French chart of Canada's Gulf of St. Lawrence and Newfoundland, by the French Royal Hydrographer Bellin.

This beautifully engraved sea chart embraces the entire Gulf of St. Lawrence, the gateway to French North America, and was made shortly before the Seven Years' War (1756-63) which brought the region under British control. The chart features the entire island of Newfoundland, the complete shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and includes Isle St. Jean (Prince Edward Island), Isle Royale (Cape Breton Island) and the Pays Des Esquimaux (Lower Labrador), as well as the lower St. Lawrence River Estuary, the Gaspé Peninsula and Anticosti Island. Notable sites include Louisbourg on Isle Royale, the massive French fortress built in 1720. The fort fell to the British in 1745, before being returned to France in 1748. Also shown is St. John's, the capital of Newfoundland, England's oldest colony, and Port La Joie, the main French town of Isle St. Jean. Elegantly cut rhumb lines traverse the chart, a signature stylistic detail of Bellin's work.

While Newfoundland was generally a British possession, the rest of the area shown was part of France's North American Empire. The chart, compiled by Jacques-Nicolas Bellin (1703-72), the hydrographer to Louis XV, was based on the finest available French sea charts, although it contained notable inaccuracies, as few of these were made from scientific surveys. Bellin's manuscripts, on which the present chart is based, are today preserved at the Bibliotheque nationale de France (Paris).

The present chart, printed in 1754, was a region of major theatre conflict. Its importance was that it was the finest printed chart available to French and British mariners during the Seven Years' War. The British



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successfully besieged Louisbourg in 1758, and sailed up the St. Lawrence to take Quebec City in 1759. In 1762, the French briefly seized St. John's, Newfoundland, from the British. Bellin's map would remain the chart of record until Samuel Holland's scientific surveys were published as part of J.F.W. Des Barres *Atlantic Neptune* (London, 1775-84).

The present example is a later state of the map, with the attribution to Bellin below the cartouche removed and re-engraved.

Detailed Condition: