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Suite de la Carte Reduite du Golphe de St. Laurent Contenant Les Costes de Labrador depuis Mecatina jusqu'a la Baye des Esquimaux Le Detroit de Belle-Isle Et Partie des Costes de l'Isle de Terre Neuve connues sous le Nom du Petit Nord . . . MDCCLIII

Stock#: 54829
Map Maker: Bellin
Date: 1753
Place: Paris
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 35 x 21.5 inches
Price: \$ 495.00



Description:

Important mid-18th Century chart of the Gulf of St. Laurence, Straits of Belle Isle and contiguous coastlines, published by Bellin, for the French Depot de la Marine.

This interesting chart is one of the most significant maps of the region. The Strait of Belle Isle divides the Island of Newfoundland from Labrador, and was long prized for its fishing and (along with the Cabot Strait) was one of the principal maritime routes to Canada. The chart carefully details the numerous



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harbors and bays, while rhumb lines traverse the seas.

The region was first visited by Europeans in the late 10th-century AD, whereupon the Vikings built a settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland. The region was rediscovered by Basque fishermen around 1500, who founded a seasonal whaling settlement at Red Bay, Labrador. Jacques Cartier sailed through the Strait of Belle Isle during his voyages to Canada, 1534-41. Over the next two centuries the area was visited regularly by French and English fishermen in search of Whale, Cod and Seal. The main French fishing base of Chateau Bay appears on the southeastern Labrador coast.

While the present map had an approximate spatial accuracy, it is based on the informal reports of mariners, as opposed to careful surveys. It was nevertheless the most important map of the region produced during the French colonial era, which ended in 1763, following the British victory in the Seven Years War. The region would first be exactly charted by Lieutenant James Cook (the future celebrated explorer) and Michael Lane, during the surveys conducted from 1763 to 1767.

Detailed Condition: