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Don Juan de Langara's Survey of the River Plate, Made By Order of the King of Spain, with Additions and Improvements, By J.W. Norie, Hydrographer. 1824

Stock#: 58042hs
Map Maker: Norie
Date: 1824
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 30 x 24.5 inches
Price: \$ 1,800.00



Description:

English Edition of The First Scientific Mapping of the Rio de la Plata

Unrecorded 1824 edition of Norie's English Sea chart of the mouth of the River Plate, based upon Spanish surveys undertaken by the Malaspina expedition, under the direction of Juan de Langara.

The chart includes smaller charts of Montevideo harbor and Maldonado harbor and notes in the title that it is engraved by Stephenson.

Norie's chart records the results of Malaspina expedition's survey of the coastline of the Rio de la Plata in 1789. The Malaspina Expedition (1789-1794) was a five-year maritime scientific exploration commanded by Alessandro Malaspina and José de Bustamante y Guerra. The expedition was funded by the Spanish government and originally pursued strictly scientific goals, in the same fashion as the voyages of James Cook and Jean-François de Galaup, comte de La Pérouse. Some of the leading scientists at the time collected an impressive amount of scientific data that even surpassed what was collected during Cook's expedition, but due to Malaspina's involvement in a conspiracy to overthrow the government, he was jailed shortly upon return. Most of the expedition's reports and collections were put away unpublished, and didn't see the light until the late 19th century.

The present chart records Malaspina's observations along both coasts of the Rio de la Plata in 1789. Malaspina proceeded as far north as the Rio Paraña, fixing precise points based upon 150 astronomical



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observations.

The present chart would seem to be a re-issue of a rare William Heather chart titled *Heather's Survey of the River Plate, Presented to the King of Spain By Don Juan de Langara. 1806.*

Juan Francisco de Lángara y Huarte (Juan Francisco Langara Uharte in Basque) (1736 - 1806) was a Spanish naval officer and Minister of Marine. The work was ordered by the King of Spain in 1789 and completed in 1794. The original map was drawn by Felipe Bauza, under the direction of Langara. The original maps is entitled:

Carta esférica del Río de la Plata desde su desembocadura hasta Buenos Aires [Material cartográfico] / levantada de Orden del Rey en 1789 y rectificada en 1794 por varios oficiales de su R[ea] Armada, Presentada a S.M. por mano del Excmo. Sr. D. Juan de Langara Secretario de Estado y del Despacho Universal de Marina ; Fernando Selma la grabó ; Felipe Bauzá la delineó

Rarity

We note a single example of an 1818 edition of the chart in the National Library of Brazil.

OCLC locates only one institutional holding (British Library) of the 1806 Heather chart. We note a second example in a composite atlas sold by Christies for 80,500 GBP (April 21, 2016, Lot #317).

Detailed Condition:

Minor restoration at top left corner and bottom left corner. Several minor repaired tears.. Narrow margins.