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Anguilla to Puerto Rico Shewing The Approaches To The Virgin Islands

Stock#: 67358
Map Maker: British Admiralty
Date: 1868 (Corrections to 1938)
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 41 x 25 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

A rare separately issued chart of the Virgin Islands, first published by the British Admiralty in 1868. The map shows the Lesser Antilles from the eastern tip of Puerto Rico through the Virgin Islands and to Anguilla. In addition, an inset chart of Sombrero Island as well as coastal profile views of several of the Virgin Islands from sea are included. The charts show extensive navigational information, including soundings, tidal information, reef channels, and more.

The islands shown in this map would change hands several times through the publications of this map. Puerto Rico would become American territory after the Spanish-American War, and the Danish Virgin Islands would also become American during the 1916 Treaty of the Danish West Indies, which had been approved by Danish voters in a referendum.

The British Admiralty published some of the best available sea charts into the modern era. This can be seen in the extensive soundings and other notes that have been made. The navigability of various areas is well explained through this map. Further, the signals from lighthouses, buoys and beacons are all explained in the upper right corner. Inland areas are documented, though the focus of this map is on navigability.

Two coastal profiles show the approaches to some of the Virgin Islands. St. Thomas Harbor is shown from ten miles away, in a view that stretches from Culebra Island to Frenchman's Gap. Virgin Gorda is shown from the east, in a view stretching from Cooper Island to Necker Island. Each view shows the topography of the islands in detail, as well as providing notes on the navigability.

The early versions of this map misplaced Sombrero Island. This was rectified in a later version, and a red line from a post-1934 edition seems to have settled the matter. Notes about the lack of water and



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vegetation are crossed out, likely after the guano mining boom of the 1870s. This resource was depleted by 1890.

In all, this is a good quality map focusing on the Virgin Islands, remarkable for its visual simplicity while conveying extensive information.

Detailed Condition:

Corrections from 1936-1937 added in red pen. Price increase marked with a purple stamp.