Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.

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An Authentic Plan of the River St. Laurence from Sillery, to the Falls of Montmorenci, with the Operations of the Siege of Quebec under the Command of Vice-Adml. Saunders & Major Genl. Wolfe down to the 5 Sepr. 1759 Drawn by a Captain in his Majesties Army

Stock#:   69375
Map Maker: Jefferys

Date: 1759
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 18.5 x 13 inches

Price: SOLD

Description:

Battle Plan of the Siege of Quebec

Striking example of the first State of Jefferys' map of the siege of Quebec of 1759, widely considered to be the most important single printed military map in Canadian history.

Drawn by an officer of the Royal Navy, the map depicts the British and French tactical positions at the time of the climatic battle on the Plains of Abraham, September 13, 1759. That engagement led to a French defeat and the deaths of both commanders, Montcalm and Wolfe; the city surrendered five days later. Wolfe's overwhelming advantages are evident. The British fleet dominates the river, and British land forces control Isle of Orleans as well as the shore directly opposite Quebec. At "The Landing Place" (to the left on the Quebec side), Wolfe's soldiers climbed the heights to a position behind the French during the night of September 12–13, thus forcing Montcalm to leave the city and do battle on the Plains of Abraham.

This fascinating map embraces the environs of Quebec City and was one of the first maps to be printed in London following news of the British victory on the Plains of Abraham in 1759, the fateful showdown between the armies of General James Wolfe and the Marquis de Montcalm. It shows the city and topography in carefully rendered detail. All of the main scenes of action surrounding the British siege are shown, including the abortive attack on Beauport, the British Headquarters at Levis and the site of the decisive Battle of the Plains of Abraham. Interestingly, each vessel of the British fleet, under the overall

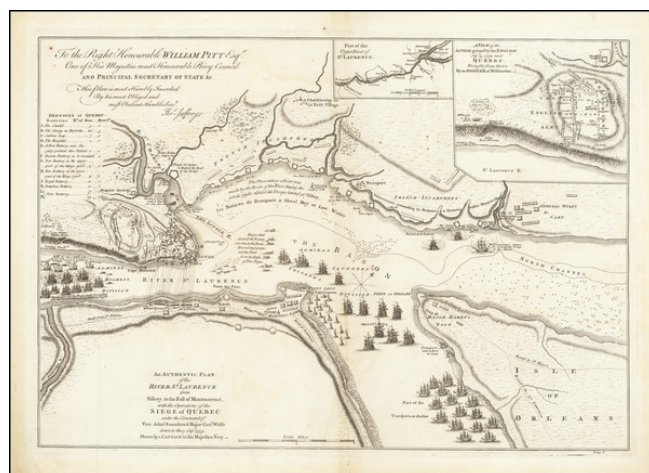**Barry Lawrence Ruderman**
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command of Admiral Saunders, appears in pictographic form, with the names of each ship labeled. The map was considered to be by far the most authoritative geographical depiction of this momentous series of events and was used as the source map for many other publications printed in London.

To lend perspective, the map includes a detail inset of the decisive battle itself, *A view of the action gained by the English Sepr. 13, 1759 near Quebec, brought from thence by an officer of distinction* and another inset map entitled *Part of the upper river of St. Laurence*, showing the region located upriver of that depicted on the main map.

Thomas Jefferys (1719-1771) was the leading British cartographer of his era, and is credited with spearheading London's ascendency as the world's premier map center during the second half of the 18th-century. He was the official cartographer to George III and is best known for his publication of many of the most important maps of the Seven Years War (or the French & Indian War) as well as a groundbreaking series of surveys of American colonies.

States of the Plan

The first state of the map was issued in late 1759 or early 1760 and includes a price of 2 Shillings at the bottom left. The second state of the map adds Jeffeys address before the price, and was issued circa 1768.

Rarity

The map is very rare on the market. AMPR reports no examples for sale in the past 40 years.

Jefferys map of Quebec is rarely seen in the present first state.

Detailed Condition:
Minor soiling at centerfold and minor foxing.