



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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**A New Geographical and Nautical Chart of the Gulf and River St. Lawrence with considerable improvements comprehending the Provinces of Lower Canada, New Brunswick, Part of Nova Scotia the Islands of Prince Edward, Cape Breton the Magdalenes, Anticosti &c. From original Drawings of Actual Surveys made by Order of Government the Part of Newfoundland, Straights Of Bellisle, Isles St. Pierre & Miquelon (included in this work) are from Actual Surveys made by the late celebrated Capt. James Cook and Michael Lane of the Royal Navy. The whole carefully compiled; the true configuration of the Sea Coast preserved and adjusted by Astronomical Observations. By Thos. Wright, Surveyor General of Prince Edward Island and Principal Assistant on the General Survey of North America . . . 1807**

**Stock#:** 70635  
**Map Maker:** Wright  
  
**Date:** 1807  
**Place:** London  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 87 x 43.5 inches (if joined)  
  
**Price:** SOLD



## Description:

***The Best Printed Survey of the St. Lawrence River to Date, with Only Two Other Examples Traced, and None in Canada***

Rare wall chart of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the River St. Lawrence, in six sheets, drawn by famed British colonial surveyor, astronomer and civil servant Thomas Wright.

Thomas Wright enjoyed a career of over half a century as a surveyor in North America, beginning in 1758. His assignments included serving as the official British astronomer to the commission to establish the boundary line between New Brunswick and Maine. As noted in greater detail in his biography below, Wright served as an Assistant to both Gerard De Brahm and Samuel Holland, Surveyor General of North America in the colonial period, and contributed to the creation of a number of important maps of Canada and New England. Wright served as Surveyor General of St. Johns Island from 1769 until his death in 1812. He also spent a significant amount of surveying the St. Lawrence and contiguous coastal regions. Wright would become perhaps the single most important surveyor of the region, privately publishing three charts: "A new Chart of the Gulf and River of Saint Lawrence to the Southern boundary of



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Lower Canada" (ca. 1785), "A New Chart of the Gulf of St. Lawrence" (1790), and "A New Geographical and Nautical Chart of the Gulf and River St. Lawrence" (1807).

This example of the latter chart was constructed by Wright in two primary sections. The principal section shows the entire extent of the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence from "Lac St. Francis" to Newfoundland. The second section is a larger-scale depiction of the river from the "Chaudiere River" to "Pt. Bonesir" and "Barnaby I."

There are a series of detailed insets: "Minguan and Eskimo Islands Enlarged," "York or Chateaux Bay," "Old Ferolle Harbour," an untitled chart of the coast from "Cape Raven" to "Griguet Bays" and "Canso Harbour."

The bottom section of the chart provides some information on the Canada-District of the Maine border, with a border shown at the "Line due North from the Source of the St. Croix as decided by the Commissioners of 1798."

The map follows in the tradition of charting the St. Lawrence made famous among map collectors by the 1760 chart of James Cook, Samuel Holland, and Joseph Frederick Wallet Des Barres. Wright's work was an important improvement on the work of his predecessors, executed with a similarly meticulous study of the major artery for commerce and transit in British North America.

The chart served a dual purpose. First, it provided far greater detail in the critical region from Quebec and the Island Orleans to the area just beyond the Saguenay River where the St. Lawrence widens considerably as it nears the gulf. Second, it offered a much broader overview of the entire reach of the river, extending from the Ottawa River and Montreal to the Straits of Belle Isle. This overview includes an excellent indication of the navigable rivers feeding the St. Lawrence and the nearby coastal regions, expanding greatly on previous charts.



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This, his third survey of the region, is the most important, and best, printed survey of the river to the date of publication.

**Rarity**

The chart is rare. We note only examples at the National Archives at Kew, the State Library of New South Wales, and an incomplete example (only five sheets) at Library and Archives Canada. Microfilm copies are located at BANQ and Université Laval.

No copy has appeared at auction since a 1978 sale in Montreal.

**Detailed Condition:**

Engraving, on six sheets joined in two horizontal sections, the upper: 553 by 2213mm, the lower: 554 by 2213mm, retaining the internal borders, rolled, both sections with manuscript shelf labels: 'A New Geographical and Nautical Chart of the Gulf and River of Saint Lawrence' and 'Second Part of Gulf and River of Saint Lawrence', the outer parts of the roll lightly dust-stained, but a very good example of the map.