



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

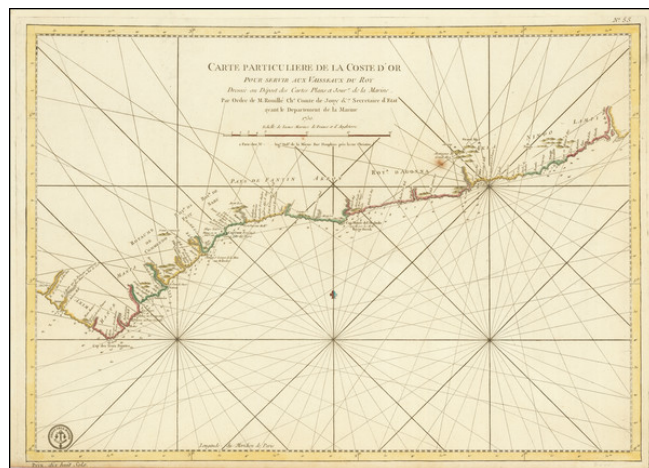
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(Ghana) Carte particuliere de la Coste d'Or

Stock#: 77517
Map Maker: Bellin
Date: 1753
Place: Paris
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG+
Size: 23.5 x 16.5 inches
Price: \$ 675.00



Description:

Charting the Slave Trade.

This 1753 *Carte particuliere de la Coste d'Or*, a sea chart of the Gold Coast of Ghana, drafted by Jacques Nicolas Bellin, France's leading maritime cartographer, reveals the grim details of European commerce, particularly the gold and slave trades, on the African coast. Published in Paris, the chart features notable European forts and extends from the Volta River in the east to Axim and Ankobra in the west, delivering a comprehensive depiction of this strategic stretch of the Gold Coast.

During the 18th century, the Gold Coast was the epicenter of two lucrative and notoriously brutal trades: gold and slaves. European powers, through their forts, exerted control over these trades, shaping the political, economic, and social landscape of the region. The chart lays bare this grim history, highlighting various forts such as Fort Fredericksbourg, Fort Vredenburg, Cape Coast Castle, Fort Amsterdam, Fort Winneba, Fort Goede Hoop, Ussher Fort, Osu Castle, and Elmina Castle, all pivotal locations in the European exploitation of African resources and people.

This chart, part of Bellin's monumental work *Hydrographie française*, serves not just as a geographical representation but also as a potent artifact of maritime history. Bellin was the Premier Ingénieur of the Depot de la Marine and the Official Hydrographer of King Louis XV, posts that placed him at the center of France's maritime and colonial endeavors. His work is thus emblematic of the era's cartographic artistry and its underlying colonial dynamics.

Unusually, this example of the map includes rhumb lines not present on most versions of the chart, suggesting its use in actual sea navigation. Additionally, the presence of a Depot de la Marine mark and a



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price indicates that this version was issued separately. The *Carte particuliere de la Coste d'Or* stands as a remarkable vestige of the Gold Coast's tumultuous past, encompassed within the grand oeuvre of one of history's most influential cartographers.

Detailed Condition:

Binding tab at top margin and a narrow margin at bottom. Small marginal tear on left.