



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

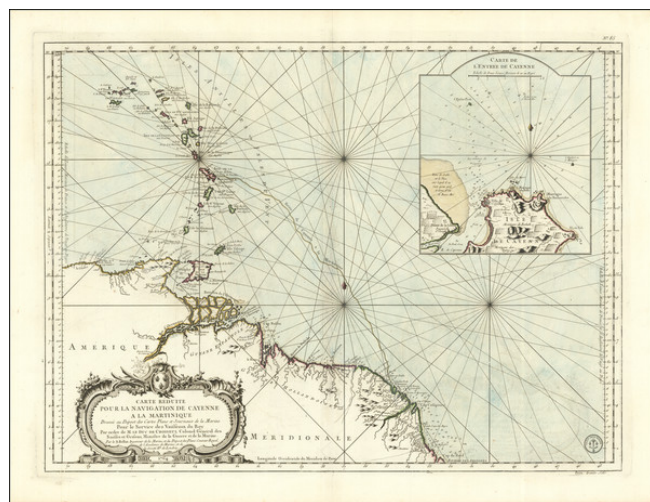
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## Carte Reduite Pour La Navigation de Cayenne a la Martinique . . . Carte de L'Entree de Cayenne

**Stock#:** 80024  
**Map Maker:** Bellin / Depot de la Marine  
**Date:** 1764  
**Place:** Paris  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 29 x 21.5 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

#### *French Naval Sea Chart for The Eastern Caribbean Seas*

Fine large sea chart covering the eastern Caribbean from the Virgin Islands to Aruba and Curacao, along with the contiguous coast of South America.

The mid-18th century was a tumultuous period for the Caribbean and its surrounding regions. As European powers scrambled to expand their territories and trade networks, the seas and islands of this region became the backdrop for power plays, military confrontations, and strategic maneuverings. It is within this historical context that this French Naval Sea Chart highlighting the Windward and Leeward Islands along with the contiguous coast of Venezuela and Suriname, assumes significance.

Drawing from the best available navigational knowledge, the chart depicts the islands of the Caribbean in detail, ranging from the Virgin Islands in the north, down to the Dutch colonies of Aruba and Curacao to the south. The inclusion of rhumb lines – straight lines on maps that represent a constant compass direction – were useful for aiding navigation, especially over long distances.

The 18th century Caribbean was a hotbed of commercial activity, and France, like other European powers, had significant economic stakes in the region. Sugar, tobacco, and indigo plantations dotted the islands. These plantations produced goods that were in high demand in Europe, promising lucrative returns for those who controlled their production and trade.



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Moreover, the proximity of the Windward and Leeward Islands to the rich Spanish colonies in South America made them crucial points in illicit trade networks. French privateers often targeted Spanish galleons laden with silver and other treasures from the New World. The present chart would have been standard issue for French naval vessels operating in the region.

France's commercial ambitions in the Caribbean were matched by its military aspirations. Naval dominance in the region would ensure the protection of French trade routes and deter other European powers. The 7 Years War (1756-1763) was emblematic of this struggle for supremacy. The Caribbean saw several naval engagements, most notably the Battle of Les Saintes in 1782, where the British fleet led by Admiral George Rodney defeated the French under Comte de Grasse, thereby ensuring British naval dominance.

This mid-18th century French sea chart of the Windward and Leeward Islands, Venezuela, and Suriname, with its intricate details and rhumb lines, is not just a navigational tool. It is a testament to France's aspirations, commercial ambitions, and the broader geopolitical struggles of the period.

**Detailed Condition:**