



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

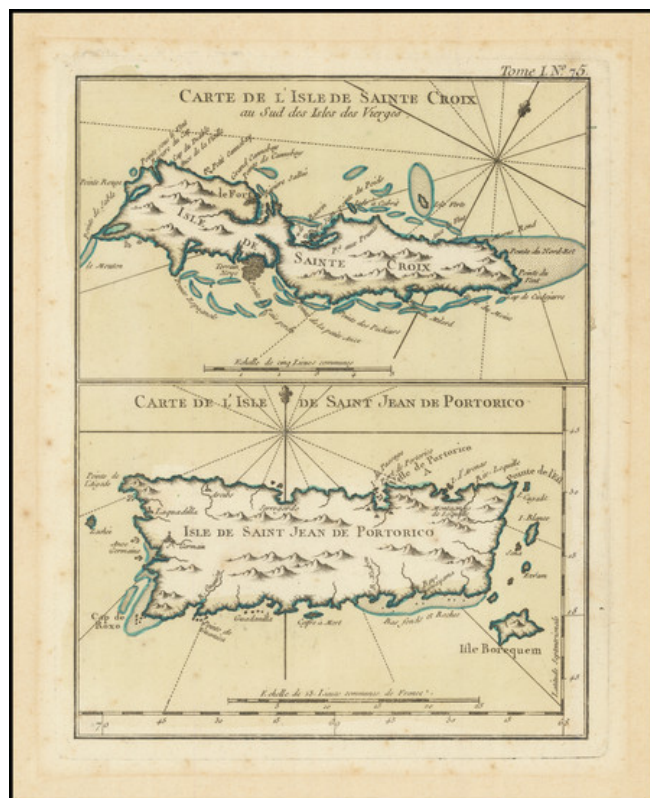
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Carte de L'Isle de Sainte Croix au Sud des Isles des Vierges | Carte de L'Isle de Saint Jean de Portorico

Stock#: 86651
Map Maker: Bellin
Date: 1764
Place: Paris
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 7 x 8.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

A nice example of Bellin's maps of Puerto Rico and St. Croix, in the US Virgin Islands. Detail is extensive on these two islands, with cities, mountain ranges, anchorages, and more shown. Detail is particularly focused on navigational features, showing many banks and naming many points.

The style in which these maps are drawn make them hallmarks of 18th century navigational cartography. The faint blue coloring to the sea and rivers brings out additional relief on land. The depictions of mountains is suggestive. Further, the names (in French), such as "drowned land," "the fort," or "coffin of the dead," are simple but evocative.

At the time that this map was made, Puerto Rico was controlled by the Spanish, while St. Croix had recently been purchased by the Danish West Indies Company and brought under monarchical control. Alexander Hamilton would move back to St. Croix the year after this map was made where he would spend his formative years on the island, before going to New York for college. In Puerto Rico, the island was



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generating increased imperial interest, and would play a major roles in the Caribbean conflicts of the second half of the 17th century.

This work originally appeared in Bellin's *Le Petit Atlas Maritime, ou Recueil de Cartes de Plans des Quatre Parties du Monde*. This small-sized pilot was a delightful maritime atlas, showing many places of interest around the world.

Detailed Condition: