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(Lesser Antilles) Carte Reduite des Isles Antilles Dressee au Depost des Cartes et Plans de la Marine... [Large Inset of Virgin Islands]

Stock#: 95061
Map Maker: Bellin
Date: 1758
Place: Paris
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 22.5 x 35 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Jacques Nicolas Bellin's *Carte Reduite Des Isles Antilles*, published in Paris in 1758, stands as a large, expertly engraved sea chart of the Lesser Antilles, reflecting the expertise and precision of French maritime cartography in the mid-18th century.

This chart features a wealth of detail regarding the islands of the Lesser Antilles. Identified are Tobago, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Barbados, Saint Kitts and Nevis, among others, with each island's coastline, significant ports, and inland features depicted. Such comprehensive detail testifies to the surveys conducted by maritime nations during this period.



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An intriguing component of this chart is the detailed inset of the Virgin Islands situated on the left, titled "Carte Particuliere des Isles des Vierges". The explicit credit to the English—"Tiree des Anglois"—for this part of the map attests to the multinational nature of cartographic knowledge during this era.

Further enhancing the chart's navigational utility, the upper left portion includes two coastal profiles of Saint Eustatius, providing a visual guide for seafarers approaching this island from different directions. Such profiles were vital navigational aids, aiding mariners in recognizing landforms from sea.

Created by Jacques Nicolas Bellin, a respected engineer for the French Navy and Royal Censor, this 1758 sea chart exemplifies the precision and detail that characterizes his work. With its accurate representation of the Lesser Antilles and the unique addition of coastal profiles, it remains an impressive artifact of 18th-century maritime exploration.

Detailed Condition:

Some minor soiling towards the bottom edge.