



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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[Boston Light] A South West View of the Lighthouse. Situate at the Entrance of Boston Harbour.

Stock#: 97747
Map Maker: Massachusetts Magazine / Hill
Date: 1789
Place: Boston
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 7.5 x 4.25 inches
Price: \$ 1,200.00



Description:

Rare American engraved 18th-century view of Boston Light, drawn by J. Edges and engraved by Samuel Hill for the *Massachusetts Magazine* in 1789.

Samuel Hill's engraving captures one of the earliest American lighthouses, located on Little Brewster Island at the entrance to Boston Harbor. Edges drawing showcases the lighthouse's strategic placement and architectural design during a period of immense historical relevance.

Boston Light holds the distinction of being the first lighthouse constructed within what would become the United States. Initially built in 1716, its historical significance extends beyond its primary function as a navigational aid; it stands as a monument to colonial engineering and maritime safety. The Light did not survive the American Revolutionary War, as it was destroyed by British forces during their evacuation of Boston in March 1776. Despite this loss, the resilient spirit of the Bostonians led to its reconstruction and reactivation by 1783, marking a new chapter in its storied existence.

The lighthouse was eventually ceded to the Federal Government in 1790, as part of the United States' early Federalization of strategic infrastructure. Today, Boston Light is recognized as the second-oldest operating lighthouse in the country, a symbol of continuity and resilience through the nation's evolving history.

The engraving, executed by Samuel Hill, a notable figure in Boston's early printmaking scene, reflects the artistic and technical standards of the time. Hill, active from at least 1789 into the early 19th century, contributed significantly to the region's cartographic and illustrative record. His work, including portrait engravings and various illustrations for publications like the *Massachusetts Magazine*, showcases a blend of artistic skill and documentary intent. Hill's is perhaps most famous for his work engraving the Boston



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edition of the "Ellicott Plan" of Washington, D.C., and his collaboration with Joseph Callender on the second edition of Osgood Carleton's seminal map of Massachusetts.

Detailed Condition:

Minor toning.