



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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A Survey of Lake Champlain, including Lake George, Crown Point and St. John, Surveyed by Order of His Excellency, Major General Sr. Jeffery Amherst . . . 1762

Stock#: 45117
Map Maker: Sayer & Bennett
Date: 1776
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 26 x 19 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Important Revolutionary War Period map of Lake Champlain & Lake George, based upon William Brassier's survey of the region during the French & Indian War.

Sayer & Bennett's map is the first separately published map to focus on Lake Champlain and Lake George. Extending from Fort William Henry in the North to Fort George and Skenesborough in the south, this large format detailed chart of Lake Champlain was based on a survey made by Brassier during 1758 and 1759, while he was employed by John Montrossor as both a surveyor and draughtsman. A number of the names have been changed; Ticonderoga was formerly Fort Carillon, Fort George and Fort William now feature as does Lake George (named after the British monarch in 1755).

Brassier's survey remained in manuscript form until the outset of the American Revolution. It was then



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engraved and first issued in Jeffery's *American Atlas*. Shortly afterwards the second state was published in Sayer and Bennett's *American Military Pocket Atlas* - the so-called *Holster Atlas*.

Offered here is the preferred second state (although the date of August 5, 1776 remains unchanged). The map shows the engagement of the British and American Fleets off the Isle of Valcour on October 11, 1776, their movements down the river, and a second engagement off Crown Point on October 13, 1776, with lettered references.

This edition of the map also illustrates America's first naval battle, in which General Benedict Arnold attacked the British and while forced back to the south, was able to delay the British attempt to descend to the Hudson for that year. No mention is made of Ethan Allen's taking of Fort Ticonderoga in 1775.

Context

The Richelieu River-Lake Champlain-Lake George region provides a navigable water link between the St. Lawrence and Hudson Rivers, and for this reason it played a strategic role in both the French & Indian War and the American Revolutionary Wars. Adversaries used the waterway-sometimes referred to as "The Great Warpath"--as a vital axis for penetrating each other's territory.

Despite the area's importance, it was not well mapped until the French & Indian War, when the British Commander in Chief Amherst commissioned a survey by William Brassier. Brassier's work was unpublished for years, presumably because hostilities had by this time essentially ended, and his survey did not appear in print until 1776 after the opening of the American Revolution.

Description

The map depicts Richelieu- Champlain- George waterway from St. John in the north to Fort William Henry in the south. It provides topographical and hydrographical information in both graphic and text form, focusing on the lakes and their immediate surroundings. At lower right is a large inset of Lake George, including further geographical and hydrographical data and a key to the area around Fort William Henry at the base of Lake George.

The map shows the location of several forts and engagements during the French and Indian War. It also details the Battle of Valcour Island (1776), roughly 10 miles northwest of present-day Burlington, VT. In this crucial but little-known engagement, a small American flotilla under Benedict Arnold forced the British to abandon a major invasion.



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After the failure of the American invasion of Canada (Winter 1775-76) . . . General Carleton counter-attacked, intending to strike through Lake Champlain to Albany and join forces with General Howe on the Hudson. Carleton organized his expedition at St. Johns, where he assembled a strong fleet. Arnold devised an audacious plan of building ships from standing timber. . . . The fierce delaying action fought by Arnold stopped the British. Because of the approaching Winter, Carleton was forced to abandon his plan and return to Canada Had the British reached Albany that winter the American Revolution could have collapsed altogether. (Nebenzahl, Atlas of the American Revolution, p. 66)

A more famous British attempt to exploit this axis came a year later (1777), during which General Burgoyne's force became bogged down and was finally trapped at Saratoga, a battle in which Arnold again played a central role. Burgoyne and his officers would almost certainly have had access to this map and use it in planning their ill-fated campaign.

A fine example of one of the most important maps of the American Revolutionary War period.

Detailed Condition:

Original wash and outline color.