



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

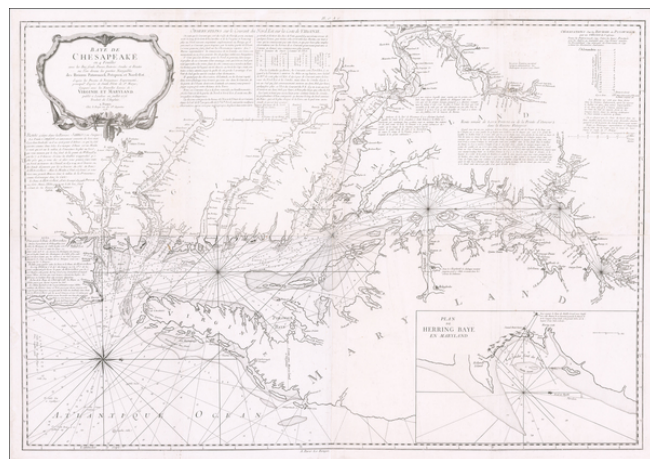
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Baye de Chesapeake en 4 Feuilles avec les Bas sonds, Passes, Entrees, Sondes et Routes ou l'on donne les parties Navigables des Rivières Patowmack, Patapsco, et Nord-Est. d'apres les Dessins de Navigateurs Experimentes, principalt. d'apres A: Smith Pilote de St. Marys . . . 1778

Stock#: 58509
Map Maker: Le Rouge / Smith
Date: 1778
Place: Paris
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 53.5 x 36.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Published for the French Navy For Use During the American Revolution

First French edition of Anthony Smith's chart of the Chesapeake, the largest and most detailed sea chart to focus on the Chesapeake region during the American Revolution.

Issued in the year France formally allied with the Americans during the American Revolution, the map appeared in Le Rouge's *Pilote Americain Septentrionale*, published specifically for use by the French Navy during the American Revolution.

Anthony Smith's chart of the Chesapeake was a landmark work, originally published in London by Sayer and Bennett in London in 1776. Smith's chart is a revision of the Walter Hoxton chart with additions and revised soundings. It became an important guide for both the English and French forces during the American Revolution.

Nothing is known of the original creation of the chart, although it is assigned to Anthony Smith of St. Marys. Nothing has been found on this man, who, to judge from the charts, must have been exceptionally well informed regarding the subaqueous and littoral characteristics of the Chesapeake Bay and its estuarine rivers. As noted by Margaret Pritchard, pilots were offering themselves for hire to visiting merchant ships from the 1640s onward, so hazardous are the sand spits, currents and shoals. Given the critical need, it is surprising how few charts were made in the 18th century.



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The map includes extensive sailing notes and observation, which were based upon work that was done by the naval officer who employed Smith as his pilot. The charting of the Potomac with soundings was by far the most accurate to date. Apparently all the prominent houses visible from the water are indicated with the intent to represent the actual shape, size and relative positions of the different structures, which are distinguished by the names of their owners.

On the blank portions of the sheet are given sailing directions involving the mention of many of the buildings placed on the headlands, besides these features, there are many figures and lines showing the courses to be followed, the bearings of prominent landmarks, and the depth of water along the streams and bay.

Rarity

Smith's chart is among the rarest and most sought after of all charts of the Chesapeake and rarely appears on the market. This is the second example we have offered in the past 25 years.

Provenance

Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, deaccessioned in November 2017 (Brunk Auctioneers).

Detailed Condition:

Four sheets, joined. Slight loss to top section at bottom right, expertly reinstated, with some other minor expert restoration.