



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## Baye et Port de Boston Tire des Manuscrits de M. le Chevalier de la Rigaudiere Lieutenant de Vaissau du Roy . . .

**Stock#:** 14098  
**Map Maker:** Le Rouge  
**Date:** 1756  
**Place:** Paris  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 18 x 13 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

Unrecorded chart of Boston, based upon the manuscript maps taken from the voyage of Rigaudiere, at the outset of the French & Indian War. The chart extends from Nahant Bay and Charles Town to Hingham, Meneticu and Beacon Hill, and includes town illustrations of Boston, Charles Town, Dorchester, Bantrey, Milton, Meneticu and Hingham, along with several unnamed towns.

Le Rouge's chart reflects a series of detailed soundings and anchorages taken in Boston Harbor, along with an illustration of a 3 masted sailing vessel anchored off Boston. Many islands, bays, points, shoals and other harbor details are also shown.

In 1756, the French, who were keen to protect their interests in North America at the commencement of the Seven Years War, dispatched an army across the North Atlantic under the command of Louis-Joseph, Marquis de Montcalm. Among other notables who joined the cause, Louis-Antoine de Bougainville secured



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a position as Aide-de-camp to Montcalm. The young Bouganville sailed from Brest on the *Licorne* on April 3, 1756. From letters written by Bouganville, it is known that he talked extensively to the ship's captain, Chevalier de la Rigaudiere, who was apparently responsible for the manuscripts which were the source for this chart.

It is known the Rigaudiere's ship arrived in Quebec in May 1756. It is reasonable to surmise that the manuscripts maps referenced in this chart were drawn from this military voyage to America, although to date we have uncovered no records of Rigaudiere's other activities in America, except that Rigaudiere is also known to have created a plan of Louisbourg during the same period, also engraved by Le Rouge.

While Le Rouge did produce maps of Boston during the American Revolution, this is a vastly different production, which does not appear in any of the standard references on the mapping of Boston or in any American institutional collections. The map was discovered pasted to the verso of a rare (unrecorded?) plan of Cartagena (Nouveau Plan De Cartagene Avec les Derneieres Atttaques des Forts Par L'Amiral Vernon), printed in Amsterdam by Chez Vandels and based upon an English map of 1741. We cannot find any reference to this engraver or the map.

While the printing style of the maps is similar, we have concluded that the maps were pasted together back to back at a later date and not by the publisher, as there is no evidence to connect Rigaudiere to Boston prior to the voyage referenced above and no other evidence to connect the two maps chronologically to one another. However, because the lower margin and a bit of the printed image are trimmed from the Boston plan, we can only speculate as to what information is lost. Regardless of the condition, it is a truly extraordinary find, providing a contemporary record of a French survey of Boston Harbor and provides anecdotal evidence of French manuscript charts of Boston Harbor prepared by a French Naval Captain at the outset of the French & Indian War.

**Detailed Condition:**

Trimmed at top, into neatline and at bottom, a few centimeters into the printed image. A bit of soiling and mottling.