



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

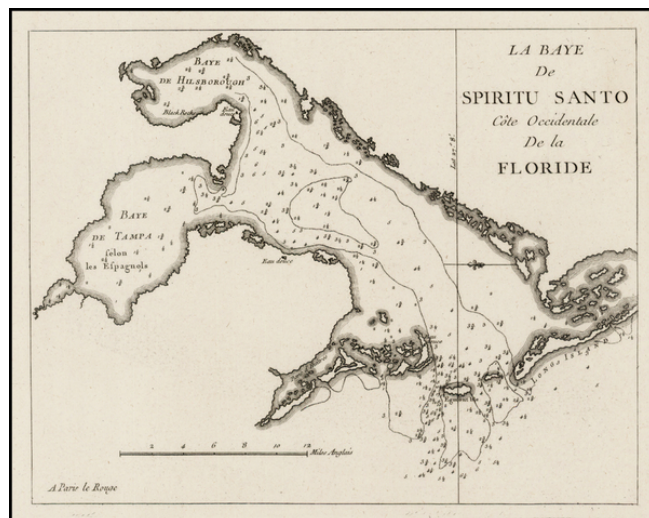
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La Baye De Spiritu Santo Cote Occidentale De La Floride

Stock#: 31216sh
Map Maker: Le Rouge
Date: 1778
Place: Paris
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 10 x 8 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare chart of Tampa Bay and Vicinity, published by Le Rouge in the *Pilote Americain Septentrionale* in 1778 for use by the French Navy during the American Revolution.

The chart provides an exceptionally detailed treatment of the Bay, including soundings, channels and other details.

Following the commencement of the American Revolution, France initially played a passive support role on behalf of the American colonist. While some French important French officers, including Lafayette and Pierre L'Enfant joined the Americans as volunteers, for the first two years, the French primarily provided military and other supplies to the Americans. Ultimately, in 1778, following several years of diplomatic efforts by Benjamin Franklin and others, France formally recognized the United States on February 6, 1778, which was followed shortly thereafter by Britain's declaration of war on France on March 17, 1778.

France's initial involvement in the war in North America was an unsuccessful attempt to capture Newport, Rhode Island, which was then under British occupation.

In support of France's new military interests in North America, George Louis Le Rouge, then mapmaker to King Louis XVI, set out to create a set of sea charts of North America for use by the French Navy. Le Rouge's *Pilote Americain Septentrionale* drew heavily upon the work of William Faden and Thomas Jefferys, utilizing a series of maps first published in 1775 under the title *North American Pilot*, which consisted of 2 volumes, one focusing on Canadian waters and the second focusing on what would become the 13 Colonies. The maps were modified with French nomenclature and sailing directions and improved



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where better information was available.

Because its primary purpose was as a military atlas designed for use at sea by the French Navy, very few examples of the *Pilote Americain Septentrionale* have survived, even fewer in good condition, and the individual maps from this atlas rarely appear on the market. The last complete copy of the atlas to appear at auction was sold at Sothebys in 1948.

Detailed Condition: