



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

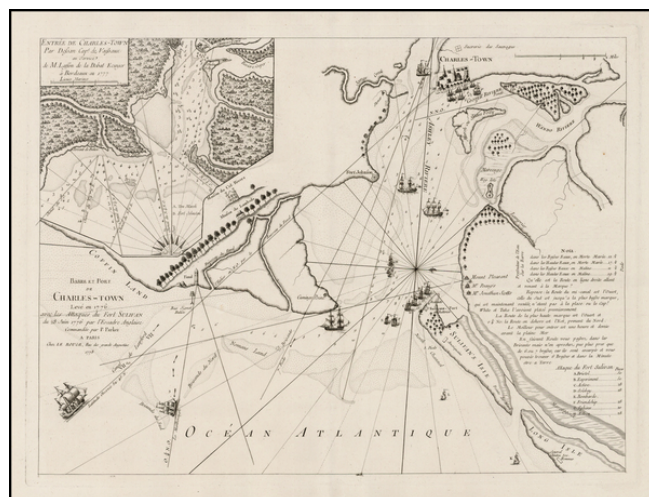
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Barre et Port De Charles-Town Levee en 1776 avec les Attaques du Fort Sullivan du 28 Juin 1776 par l'Escarde Anglais Commandee par P. Parker . . . 1778

Stock#: 31399sh
Map Maker: Le Rouge
Date: 1778
Place: Paris
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 29 x 21 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Extremely rare Revolutionary War chart of Charleston Harbor depicting the siege of Charleston Harbor by Peter Parker on June 28, 1776, prepared for Le Rouge's *Pilote Americain Septentrionale*, which was compiled specifically for use by the French Navy during the American Revolution.

The chart illustrates the entrance to the Charles River and Charlestown. Oriented with north to the right, the detailed map presents soundings, currents, anchorages, shoals and banks, navigational hazards, and the lighthouse and beacon. Along the shore are pictorial depictions of grand plantation homes, Forts Sullivan and Johnson, and the village of Charleston huddled around two churches.

The map includes detailed sailing directions at the right, along with a list of the 8 British ships under Parker's command and the number of guns on each ship. At the top left is an inset map of the entrance to Charleston as surveyed by Dessan and Laffon in 1777.

Following the commencement of the American Revolution, France initially played a passive support role on behalf of the American colonists. While some 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,



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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 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 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 1949.

Detailed Condition: