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The Attack and Defeat of the American Fleet under Benedict Arnold, by the Kings Fleet Commanded by Captn Thos. Pringle, upon Lake Champlain, the 11th of October 1776. London, Dec. 3, 1776 . . .

Stock#: 33749
Map Maker: Faden
Date: 1776
Place: London
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG
Size: 18 x 16.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Nice example of Faden's battle plan of the Battle of Valcour Island, one of the rarest of all printed battle plans for the American Revolution.

Faden's plan is the definitive record for Benedict Arnold's engagement with the British fleet at Valcour Island, on Lake Champlain. The engagement was the high point in Benedict Arnold's military career, although he would later become the most famous traitor of the Revolution. Faden's plan, which was reportedly derived from, "a sketch taken by an Officer on the Spot," accurately depicts the movements of the two naval squadrons, as well as the tracks of the retreat of the American survivors back to Fort Ticonderoga on the evening following the initial action.

While the British had technically defeated the Americans at Valcour Island, Arnold's delaying tactics forced the British to return to Canada for the winter, thereby delaying the British plan to march these forces south to join General Howe on the Hudson River.



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Commanded by Captn Thos. Pringle, upon Lake Champlain, the 11th of October 1776.
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The map originally bore the name of Sir Guy Carleton, the commander of the British Forces at Valcour Island. However, beginning with this edition of the plan, Faden has removed Pringle's name, most likely because by this time, the British viewed Valcour Island as a significant military failure, leading Carleton or his supporters to ask that Faden removed all evidence of Carleton's command. Nebenzahl notes that, "It is generally conceded that if the British had reached Albany that winter the American Revolution could have collapsed altogether."

Faden published a series of famous battle plans for the Revolution, of which this example is the rarest and is especially desirable with the additional text panels below the plan. Streeter refers to the Pringle edition of the map as, "the second and preferred edition," with no recorded examples of the Pringle edition appearing at auction since the Streeter copy in 1967 (#779-sold for \$650.00 and acquired by Streeter from the Old Print Shop in 1962).

The map is known in 4 states, 2 naming Guy Carleton as the commander of the British Fleet and 2 naming Pringle as the commander. Each of these are known to exist with and without text, although the text edition with Carleton's name is not recorded by Nebenzahl or Tooley and was unknown to Streeter.

Detailed Condition:

Expertly repaired tear, extending from left margin to just above Valcour Island. Repairs along an old fold through the text section, about half way down the text, with two minor areas of paper loss, expertly filled, not affecting the printed text. Several other thin spots. The whole flattened and expertly backed with Japan paper.