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Sitka or New Arkhangel From A Russian Plan By Captn. Yassieff. 1850

Stock#: 36541
Map Maker: British Admiralty
Date: 1855
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 25 x 19 inches
Price: \$ 750.00



Description:

Exceedingly rare and highly detailed British Admiralty Chart of Sitka, Alaska and environs, based upon an earlier chart by the Russian Sea Captain Ivan Vasilyev.

This exceptional chart shows one of the earliest obtainable scientifically drawn surveys of the area around Sitka, along with soundings, sailing channels, anchorages and the details of the Indian Village, Monastery, Observatory and Russian settlement. With the exception of the inset map in Gavril Andreevich Sarychev's *Karta zaliva Chiniatskago, nakhodiaschagosia pri Ostrovie Kad'iake, so vkodom v pavlovskuiu gavan' k eleniiu Rosiisko Amerckansko Kompanii*, published in St. Petersburg in 1826 we know of no other charts which treat Sitka in such detail. vilda.alaska.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/cdmg11/id/10691/rec/1. Duflot du Mofras also published a smaller map of Sitka and New Archangel in 1844: {{ inventory_detail_link('17412') }}

Originally settled by the Russians in 1799 and occupied by Alexandr Baranov, the Governor of American Russia, which was then primarily a venture of the Russian-American Company, the Russian settlers were run out of Sitka by native Tlingit, before returning in 1804 and engaging the Tlingit in what would become known as the Battle of Sitka. Sitka became the capital of Russian America in 1808. The Russian Orthodox Cathedral of St. Michael was constructed in 1848, becoming the seat of the Russian Orthodox Bishop of Kamchatka, the Kurile and Aleutian Islands and Alaska. Sitka was perhaps the most important port on the West Coast of North America during the first half of the 19th Century, before being supplanted by San Francisco following the start of the Gold Rush in 1849.

Ivan Vasilyev was a Russian explorer and navigator, working for the Russian Imperial Navy. His first major



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command was with Leonty Andrianovich Gagemeister on ship *Neva*, which explored the coasts of Alaska and the North Pacific in 1806. Vasilyev explored the Alexander Archipelago and the many coastal Islands in the area. Later, in 1809, Vasilyev surveyed the western shore of Baranof Island. Mt. Verstovia was named in 1809 by Vasilyev. Redoubt Lake was originally named Ozero Glubokoye, meaning "deep lake", in 1809 Vasilyev.

Vasilief Bank, near Sitka, Alaska and Vasilief Rock in Kodiak Island were named after Ivan Vasilyev. There were two other well regarded Russian Naval officers named Vasilyev, including Mikhail Vasilyev, whose "Remarks on California" (from Fragments of Draft Notes on the round-the-world voyage of the sloops *Otkrytie* and *Blagonamerenny* in 1819-1822), is an important source of information on Russian California.

The chart is of the utmost rarity. OCLC locates only the copy in the British Library. The Library of Congress website notes a facsimile copy of this chart at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, which also holds an 1862 edition of this chart.

Detailed Condition:

Repair at lower right corner, affecting neat lines. Admiralty stamp at lower right part of image.