



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Plan De L'Entree et de la Rade de Rio-Janeiro Leve en 1826, Par M. Barral, Lieutenat de Vaisseau, Embarque sous les Ordres de M. Ducampe de Rosamel, Contre-Amiral, Commandant la Station Francaise de l'Amerique Meridionale. . . 1829.

Stock#: 38285
Map Maker: Depot de la Marine
Date: 1829
Place: Paris
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 41 x 28 inches
Price: \$ 975.00



Description:

Rare French plan of the Harbor of Rio De Janeiro, engraved by Caplin and drafted by Besancon for the Depot General de La Marine in 1829.

The plan is based upon the surveys of Jean Augustine Barral in 1826 and shows the entrance to the Rio de Janeiro harbor and its environs, including extensive soundings and sailing directions. A fleur d'lis at the top displays the chart's orientation with north at the top.

The plan shows the booming port of Rio de Janeiro, during a period of tremendous growth in both population and geo-political importance. It had just become the largest city in South America and the most



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important trading port on the continent, just 20 years after the Portuguese Royal Court relocated to Rio de Janeiro.

The transfer of the Portuguese Royal Court from Lisbon to Rio was a major event. By November 1807, it had become clear that all of metropolitan Portugal would soon fall to Napoleon's French legions. Fearing for their safety, the Braganza family decided to move their entire court to Rio de Janeiro. With the assistance of Britain's Royal Navy, Dom João VI and his family, as well a vast retinue of 15,000 noblemen, civil servants and their families migrated en masse across the Atlantic.

This was historically significant as the only instance of a "metropolitan reversal", whereby a major European empire was forced to flee the mother country and relocate to one of its colonies. The arrival of so many people had a transformative effect on the Rio. In 1808, Rio had a population of around 85,000, sizable by colonial standards. While Rio had been the capital of Brazil since 1763 and its major port, it had been experiencing a prolonged economic slump that saw the value of its harbor traffic halved over the previous generation. Prior to the arrival of the Portuguese Royal Court, Rio had been in a state of decay for several decades.

The arrival of the Portuguese Court not only significantly added to the city's population, but it brought great wealth and intellectual sophistication to Rio. This led to the genesis of several institutions, many of which are anchors of Rio and Brazil's economic and cultural life to this day. These included Brazil's first printing house, the Academy of Fine Arts, the botanical gardens, the Rio School of Medicine, the National Library of Brazil and the Bank of Brazil.

Importantly, the port of Rio was also released from the limitations of the traditional mercantilist system (which had strictly limited trade to Portugal and other Portuguese colonies) and opened her economy to global commerce, ushering in an unprecedented boom. Between 1808 and 1816, over 6,000 new houses were built in the city and 100 new country estates were established in its environs. By 1821, the city's population had grown to 113,000, making it the largest city in South America. Thus, more than any other event, the court transfer was responsible for laying the foundation of the modern cosmopolitan City of Rio de Janeiro.

Jean Augustine Barral was an active hydrographical surveyor, who also surveyed the Rio de la Plata between 1830 and 1832.

Detailed Condition: