



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
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A Sketch of the Operations of His Majesty's Fleet and Army under the Command of Vice Admiral the Rt. Hble. Lord Viscount Howe and Genl. Sr. Wm. Howe K. B. in 1776.

Stock#: 47480
Map Maker: Des Barres
Date: 1775
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 33 x 24.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Des Barres's Map of New York City. A Legendary Revolutionary War Rarity.

"One of the greatest of the Atlantic Neptune charts" -- Nebenzahl

Cornerstone hand-colored engraved map of New York City and the surrounding area, comprehending the events of the New York Campaign during the American Revolution and published shortly after its conclusion.

The map itself and particularly the key in the upper left serve as a timeline of the New York Campaign, which was one of the most important early engagements of the war. The battles and skirmishes, strangely enough, were a sort of victory-in-defeat for George Washington, who, despite overwhelming odds,



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managed to withdraw the Continental Army from the city after suffering repeated blows. Conversely, the British let slip away a singular opportunity to put down the Revolution conclusively just as it was beginning.

The map shows the following events:

- The British landing in Brooklyn on August 22
- The Battle of Long Island on August 27
- The British landing on Manhattan on September 15
- The launching of the American fire ships against the Phoenix and the Rose on October 15
- The Battle of White Plains on October 28
- The capture of Fort Washington on November 16

Des Barres

Joseph Frederick Wallet Des Barres (1721-1824) was born in Switzerland where his Huguenot ancestors had fled following the repeal of the Edict of Nantes. He studied under the great mathematician, Daniel Bernoulli, at the University of Basel, before immigrating to Britain where he trained at the Royal Military College, Woolwich. Upon the outbreak of hostilities with France in 1756, he joined the British Royal American Regiment as a military engineer. He came to the attention of General James Wolfe, who appointed him to join his personal detail. During this period he also worked with the legendary future explorer, James Cook, on a monumental chart of the St. Lawrence River.

Atlantic Neptune

Upon the conclusion of the Seven Years War, Britain's empire in North America was greatly expanded, and this required the creation of a master atlas featuring new and accurate sea charts for use by the Royal



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Navy. Des Barres was enlisted to survey the coastlines of Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. With these extremely accurate surveys in hand, Des Barres returned to London in 1774, where the Royal Navy charged him with the Herculean task of producing the atlas. He was gradually forwarded the manuscripts of numerous advanced surveys conducted by British cartographers in the American Colonies, Jamaica, and Cuba, conducted in the 1760s.

The result of Des Barres's travels along the Atlantic seaboard was The Atlantic Neptune, which became the most celebrated sea atlas of its era, containing the first systematic survey of the east coast of North America. Des Barres's synergy of great empirical accuracy with the peerless artistic virtue of his aquatint views, created a work that "has been described as the most splendid collection of charts, plates and views ever published" (National Maritime Museum Catalogue).

The Neptune eventually consisted of four volumes and Des Barres's dedication to the project was so strong that often at his own expense he continually updated and added new charts and views to various editions up until 1784, producing over 250 charts and views, many appearing in several variations. All of these charts were immensely detailed, featuring both hydrographical and topographical information, such that in many cases they remained the most authoritative maps of the regions covered for several decades.

The atlas is of the utmost rarity; the last example sold at auction made \$779,000 in 2009.

Des Barres After the Atlantic Neptune

After the Revolution, United Empire Loyalists were resettled throughout Canada. As part of this process, a new colony was created by separating Cape Breton from Nova Scotia. Des Barres served as lieutenant governor of Cape Breton Island from 1784 to 1787. He later served as governor of Prince Edward Island from 1804-1812.

He lived an exceptionally long life, even by today's standards, finally dying at age 102-years-old. Des Barre's funeral was held at St. George's Round Church in 1824. He was buried beside his wife Martha in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Des Barres was survived by his mistress Mary Cannon and their four children.

Rarity

We are aware of one other example in dealer's catalogs over the last 25 years; it traded first with Martayan Lan in 1992 and again with Boston Rare Maps, two years ago.



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Detailed Condition:

Left margin extended. Restoration along the fold below and to the left of Elizabeth town and on the same fold above Jamaica Bay.