



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

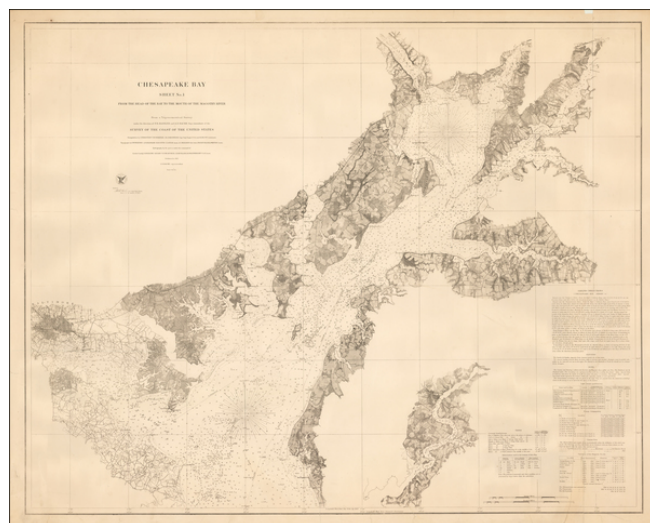
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Chesapeake Bay Sheet No. 1 From The Head of the Bay To The Mouth of the Magothy River . . . Published in 1857

Stock#: 48099
Map Maker: United States Coast Survey
Date: 1857
Place: Washington
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 30 x 37.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

A huge and hugely informative chart of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, in a rarely-found issue on heavy chart paper.

The present chart pre-dates the example published in the Annual Report of the United States Coast survey and lacks both the number at the top left and the Lang & Lang imprint at the top right corner. The location of the Tides table in the lower right corner is also positioned differently.

The chart shows the Chesapeake Bay extending north to Havre-de-Grace, Northeast and Elkington Maryland in the north, to the mouth of the Chester River and the area just south of Baltimore.

A trove of information, the charts include immensely detailed soundings; navigational hazards; navigational aids such as lighthouses and light ships; and sailing directions. Also provided is detailed topographical and cartographical information on the adjacent coastal regions.

Printed on heavy paper, this chart was one of a set of approximately 6 charts, but is now extremely rare on the market in any form.

The Office of the Coast Survey is the oldest scientific organization in the Federal Government. It dates to 1807, when President Jefferson established it for the purpose of fostering maritime commerce. The website of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) offers this tribute:



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These men and women (the Coast Survey hired women professionals as early as 1845) helped push back the limits of astronomic measures, designed new and more accurate observational instruments for sea and land surveying, developed new techniques for the mathematical analysis of the mountains of data obtained by the field parties, and further refined techniques of error analysis and mitigation. It was the Coast Survey that led American science away from the older descriptive methods to the modern methods of statistical analysis and the prediction of future states of natural phenomena based on mathematical modeling. Virtually all branches of science, including the social and biological sciences, have adapted similar methodologies and similar techniques in their quest for scientific truth. But, in the United States, it should be remembered that it was the Coast Survey that first trod that path.

Each Coast Survey chart represented an immense undertaking. For example, these charts of the Chesapeake present data gathered beginning in 1843 by separate parties focusing on terrestrial topography, triangulation, hydrography, and astronomical and magnetic observations. Their work was overseen by Edmund Blunt Jr., son of the famed New York chart publisher and First Assistant to Coast Survey Superintendent A.D. Bache. More than a dozen contributors are given credit on the charts, a figure including neither the many lower-ranking members of the survey parties, nor the assistant engravers, printers, etc.

Detailed Condition:

A number of repaired splits and tears, expertly repaired on verso.