



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

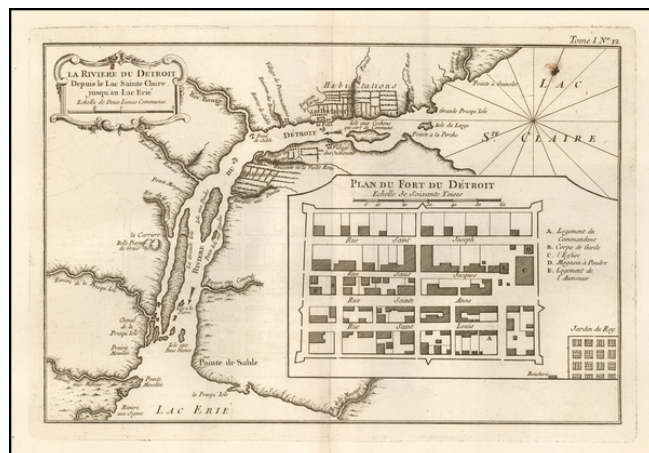
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(Detroit) La Riviere Du Detroit Depuis le Lac Sainte Claire jusqu'au Lac Erie . . .

Stock#: 54667
Map Maker: Bellin
Date: 1764
Place: Paris
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 12.5 x 8 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The First Map of Detroit

Fine example of the first separately printed map of Detroit, published by Bellin in his *Petit Atlas Maritime*.

Bellin's map is based on surveys made by French engineer Gaspard-Joseph Chaussegros de Lery (1721-97), completed just before the start of the Seven Years War (French & Indian War in America). The map shows the Detroit River in the general vicinity of Detroit, including the many islands and safe anchorages, as well as farms, villages and other landmarks along both shores. The town of Detroit appears as "Habitations" on the north bank of the river, surrounded by farms.

The large inset plan shows the fortified town of Detroit in detail, about 400 by 600 feet with very narrow streets. Buildings are shown in plan view, with five of the most important identified by name.

Detroit was founded in 1701 by French-Canadian settlers, under Antoine de la Motte Cadillac. Established at an important location on the Detroit River between Lakes Erie and Huron, Detroit was for decades one of North America's most strategically-significant settlements, controlling a key route from Canada to the Old Northwest and the Mississippi Valley.

By the time of its capture by the British during the French & Indian War, it had grown to some 800 inhabitants, making it the largest settlement between Montreal and New Orleans.



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Detailed Condition:

Minor abrasion of the fleur d'lis, likely done during the French Revolution.