



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

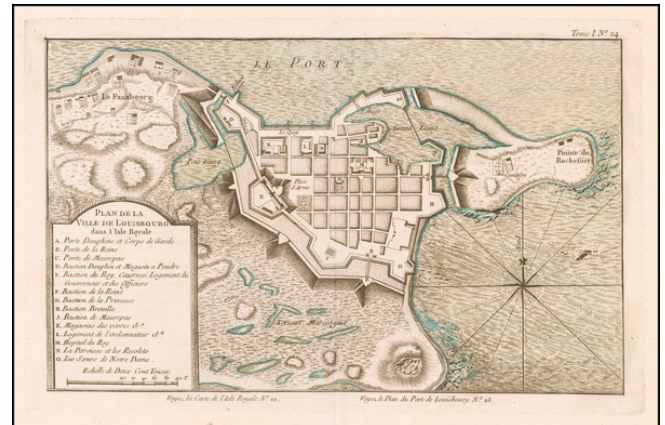
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[Fortifications at Louisbourg] Plan de la Ville de Louisbourg dans l'Isle Royale

Stock#: 58910
Map Maker: Bellin
Date: 1764
Place: Paris
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 13.5 x 8 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Scarce plan of Louisbourg, published at the conclusion of the French & Indian War, from Bellin's *Petit Atlas Maritime*.

The map shows major fortifications and includes a key locating 14 important points of interest.

Louisbourg was originally settled in 1713, and initially called Havre à l'Anglois. Subsequently, the fishing port grew to become a major commercial port and a strongly defended fortress. The fortifications eventually surrounded the town. The walls were constructed mainly between 1720 and 1740.

By the mid-1740s Louisbourg, named for Louis XIV of France, was one of the most extensive (and expensive) European fortifications constructed in North America. It was supported by two smaller garrisons on Île Royale located at present-day St. Peter's and Englishtown. The Fortress of Louisbourg suffered key weaknesses, since it was erected on low-lying ground commanded by nearby hills and its design was directed mainly toward sea-based assaults, leaving the land-facing defences relatively weak. A third weakness was that it was a long way from France or Quebec, from which reinforcements might be sent.

Louisbourg was first captured by New England based British colonists in 1745, and was a major bargaining chip in the negotiations leading to the 1748 treaty ending the War of the Austrian Succession. It was returned to the French in exchange for border towns in what is today Belgium. It was captured again in 1758 by British forces in the Seven Years' War, after which its fortifications were systematically destroyed by British engineers.



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Detailed Condition:

Old Color