



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

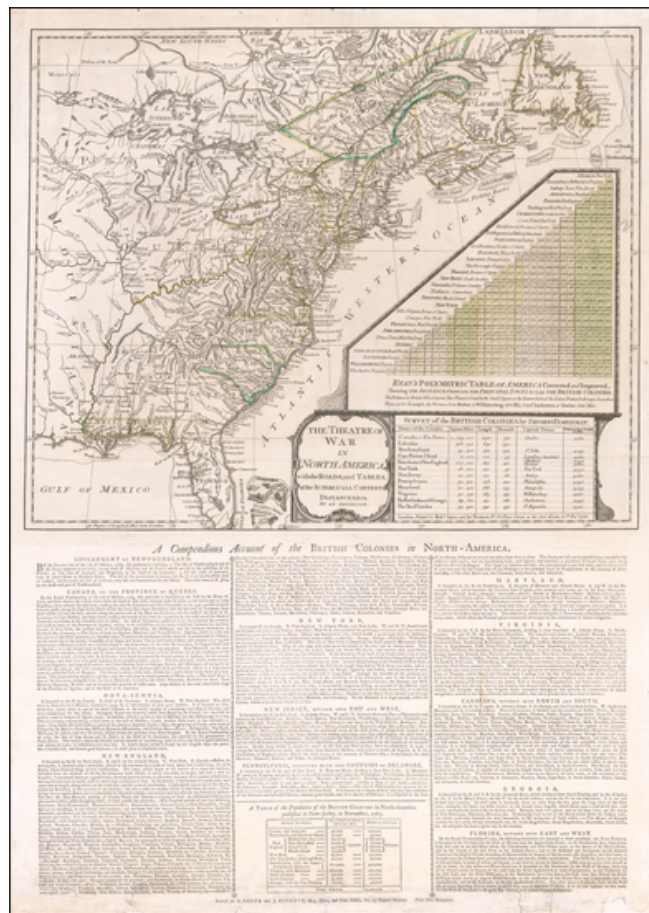
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## The Theatre of War in North America, with the Roads, and Tables, of the Superficial Contents, Distances, &c. a By and American [with] A Compendious Account of the British Colonies in North-America.

**Stock#:** 59931  
**Map Maker:** Sayer & Bennett  
**Date:** 1776  
**Place:** London  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 22 x 30 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

#### An American Revolutionary War Rarity

Broadside Chart and Map Illustrating the Theater of the American Revolution

Fine example of Sayer & Bennett's rare November 20, 1776 broadside map and account of the war in North America, a fine example of Lewis Evan's Polymetric Table of America, etc. & "Survey of the British Colonies, by Thomas Templeman".

This is the second of two similar looking broadsides, issued in 1776 by Sayer & Bennett. The March 1776



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### **The Theatre of War in North America, with the Roads, and Tables, of the Superficial Contents, Distances, &c.a By and American [with] A Compendious Account of the British Colonies in North-America.**

broadside included an inferior map and significantly less statistical details and was swiftly replaced by the November 1776 broadside.

#### **March 1776 Broadside**

Following a brief peace attempt between England and the Colonies in 1775, the American Revolution commenced in earnest in the winter of 1775. Sayer & Bennett's *Theatre of War in North America* . . . and the accompanying *Compendious Account* . . . is one of the earliest contemporary printed accounts of the Revolutionary War available to the British populous, the first printing coming in March 1776, even as the British were evacuating Boston.

The purpose of the map and broadside was to give the British public an overview of the colonies in which the conflict was developing. The map occupies the upper portion, with the colonies described in the letterpress below. Inset on the map is a table of the distances which must have been enlightening to the English who imagined the colonies to be much smaller and close together. In addition, a population chart lists Virginia and Maryland's population of "Men (White and Black) able to bear Arms" at 180,000. On Virginia the publishers note that the colony "seems unrivaled throughout the universe for convenience of inland navigation; indeed, it has been observed, and with reason, that every planter here has a river at his door."

#### **November 1776 Broadside**

By November 1776, Sayer & Bennett had certainly recognized that their original map was substantially inaccurate, and omitted the southern part of Florida. To remedy the situation, an entirely new Theatre of War Map was issued, with significant improvements. The most obvious changes are:

- Lake Champlain now incorporates the Brassier Survey
- The detail in the Hudson Valley is significantly updated
- The shape of Long Island is significantly improved
- The treatment of Lake Superior, Lake Michigan and Lake Huron are dramatically updated, including a shift of Lake Michigan from trending southeast to trending southwest.
- The details in Western Virginia and the Ohio Valley are significantly updated
- The Upper Mississippi River Valley and Tributaries are significantly revised
- The treatment of North Carolina and Virginia are significantly improved
- The area around Montreal and the St. Lawrence River to the east are significantly updated.



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British Colonies in North-America.**

An extra statistical table is added.

**Rarity**

While the March 1776 broadside appears on the market with some frequency, this November 1776 map is quite rare.

We note only an example in the Goodspeed Catalog of 1959 ,ad examples offered by Richard Arkway in 1994 (Catalog 42, item 19) and Martayan Lan in 1999 (Catalog 28, Item 25).

We locate example at the Library of Congress, Boston Public Library, National Library of Portugal, and Colonial Williamsburg.

**Provenance:** Ex-Colonial Williamsburg. Purchased from the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation via Brunk Auctions in January 2019.

**Detailed Condition:**