



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

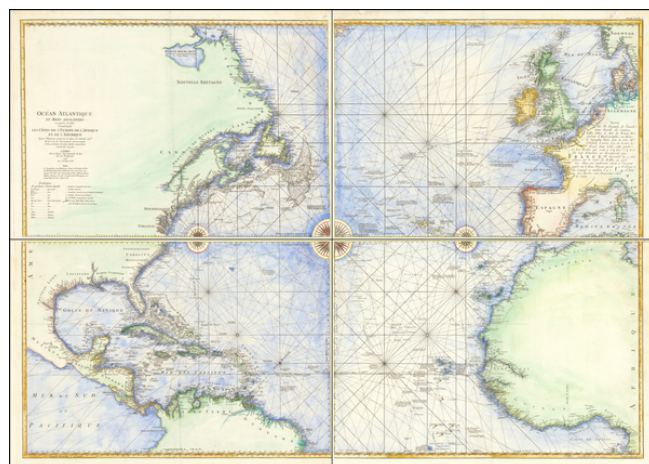
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Ocean Atlantique et Mers Adjacentes en quatre feuilles Contenant Les Cotes De L'Europe, De L'Afrique et De L'Amerique . . . 1778

Stock#: 62378
Map Maker: Le Rouge
Date: 1778
Place: Paris
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 54 x 38 inches (if joined)
Price: SOLD



Description:

Decorative example of Georges Louis Le Rouge's 4 sheet sea chart of the Atlantic Ocean, prepared for his *Pilote Americain Septentrionale*, which was compiled specifically for use by the French Navy during the American Revolution.

The chart provides a detailed treatment of the Atlantic Coast of North America, the Caribbean and Gulf Coasts, along with a detailed set of annotations on various courses across the Atlantic from the coasts of Europe and Africa. Each of the courses is extensively annotated and includes prevailing ocean currents. Along the coastlines, many coastal towns and rivers are listed, along with soundings. The chart includes 3 compass roses.

Le Rouge's chart would have been one of the primary sources of information for French Military Pilots and French Merchants in route to America to support the Colonists against Great Britain during American Revolution.

Following the commencement of the American Revolution, France initially played a passive support role on behalf of the American colonists. While some important French officers, including Lafayette and Pierre L'Enfant joined the Americans as volunteers, for the first two years, the French primarily provided military and other supplies to the Americans. Ultimately, in 1778, following several years of diplomatic efforts by Benjamin Franklin and others, France formally recognized the United States on February 6, 1778, which was followed shortly thereafter by Britain's declaration of war on France on March 17, 1778.

France's initial involvement in the war in North America was an unsuccessful attempt to capture Newport,



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Rhode Island, which was then under British occupation.

In support of France's new military interests in North America, George Louis Le Rouge, then mapmaker to King Louis XVI, set out to create a set of sea charts of North America for use by the French Navy. Le Rouge's *Pilote Americain Septentrionale* drew upon the work of William Faden and Thomas Jefferys, utilizing a series of maps first published in 1775 under the title *North American Pilot*, which consisted of 2 volumes, one focusing on Canadian waters and the second focusing on what would become the 13 Colonies. The maps were modified with French nomenclature and sailing directions and improved where better information was available.

Because its primary purpose was as a military atlas designed for use at sea by the French Navy, very few examples of the *Pilote Americain Septentrionale* have survived, even fewer in good condition, and the individual maps from this atlas rarely appear on the market. The last complete copy of the atlas to appear at auction was sold at Sothebys in 1949.

Detailed Condition:

4 sheets, unjoined.