



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## (Shark's Bay, Western Australia) Carte de la Baie des Chiens-Marins

**Stock#:** 77744  
**Map Maker:** Peron / Freycinet  
**Date:** 1824  
**Place:** Paris  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 7 x 8.5 inches  
**Price:** \$ 450.00



### Description:

Original antique map of Shark's Bay, on the western coastline of Australia. The map is a highly detailed nautical chart, naming islands and showing shoals, and is based on the first thorough survey of the bay by Louis Claude Desaulse de Freycinet as part of an expedition led by Nicolas Baudin.

The Baudin expedition was part of the Napoleonic-era French desire to have an increased role in the mapping of the lesser-known parts of the world, particularly in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. During this period, a number of important and rare early surveys of California, Australia, and the western coast of Latin America were produced.

This map shows Shark Bay, terming it "Baie des Chiens-Marins," referring to the squaliform sharks that stalk the region. Shark Bay is considered to be one of the primary natural wonders of Western Australia, and is home to one of the world's only remaining examples of stromatolites, which are large mounds of bacterial mats which are some of the earliest known forms of recorded life.

### Louis Freycinet and the Baudin Expedition



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The map that this is based on featured in the rarest of the volumes to come out of the Baudin expedition. When Nicolas Baudin left Le Havre in the *Geographe* and the *Naturaliste* in October 1800, he was embarking on a voyage meant to survey the shores of Australia. At this time, the British had established their presence in eastern Australia, but the western and southern portions of the continent remained unexplored and not necessarily claimed by the British. In other words, although ostensibly a scientific expedition, the French were also open to possible overseas expansion if the opportunity arose.

In the *Naturaliste*, commanded by Captain Jacques Hamelin, was Louis Freycinet, then only 21 years old. He had joined the French Navy in 1793 and was accompanied on this voyage by his brother, Louis-Henri, who would go on to become an admiral. Henri Freycinet also has his own geographical feature on this chart, the *Havre Henri Freycinet*.

Initially the ships, sometimes separated, made their way north up the western coast of Australia from Cape Leeuwin to Timor. Eventually, Baudin and the *Geographe* made for Van Diemen's Land and then returned toward the west. En route, they encountered British naval officer Matthew Flinders in the *Investigator*. Flinders, on his third Australian surveying mission, was heading to Sydney, from where he would begin a clockwise circumnavigation of the Australian continent, the first such voyage to ever do so. Flinders named the place where he and Baudin met Encounter Bay.

Baudin and Hamelin were reunited in Sydney, where both ships had come to recuperate in late 1801. While there, Baudin purchased a 29-foot vessel. He named it *Casuarina* and placed Freycinet, who had proved himself an adroit hydrographer under Hamelin, in command. With his new charge, Freycinet was to perform inshore surveys.

During the course of 1802, the *Geographe* and the *Casuarina* surveyed the southern coast of Australia (the *Naturaliste* had been sent back to France). They then sailed round the west coast to Timor, then back to Mauritius, where Baudin died. It was also where the *Casuarina's* career ended, as the ship was abandoned in favor of consolidating the crews on the *Geographe*. The ship returned home on March 25, 1804.

#### **Detailed Condition:**