



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

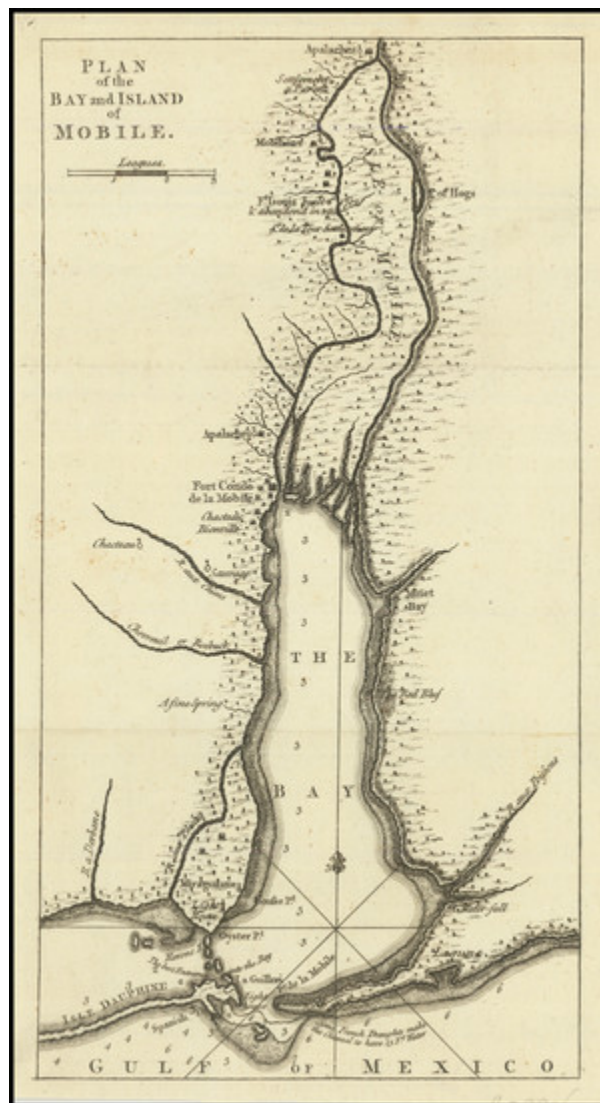
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[Earliest Obtainable Map of Mobile Bay] Plan of the Bay and Island of Mobile

Stock#: 84157
Map Maker: Jefferys
Date: 1763
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 6 x 11 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The Earliest Obtainable Map of Mobile Bay

Rare early English map of Mobile Bay, engraved for Thomas Jefferys in London in 1763.

The map was published separately (see King's Topographical Collection note below) and was also featured in William Roberts' *An account of the first discovery, and natural history of Florida*, published in 1763 in



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London, the year the British took official control of the area following the Treaty of Paris and the end of the French & Indian War.

Drawn in part from Jean Baptiste Bourguignon d'Anville's 1732 map of Louisiana, this is the earliest obtainable printed map to focus on Mobile Bay. As noted by Old Florida Maps (on-line, University of Miami)

This map shows one of the important and controversial ports which belonged to West Florida during the British Period (1763-1783) and the first part of the Spanish Period 1783-until it was ceded back to France by the Spanish in 1795, including all the portion of West Florida west of the Perdido River. That is the current western border of the panhandle portion of Florida. That western part was later to become part of the United States when the Louisiana Purchase took place in 1803 and later divided between Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama in 1811 and 1812.

The Harbor of Mobile had been valuable to the British and was described by a Captain Robinson in 1750 as ""a most noble and spacious harbour running thirty miles north and six miles broad to the several mouths of the Halabana and Chicasaw rivers. It affords good anchorage, and is capable of containing the whole British navy."" The continued interest in this by the British and French and Spain's inability to use it or properly defend it and Pensacola was one of the factors that persuaded Spain to sell Florida to the United States in 1819.

Roberts work is considered an important review of the known history of Florida, issued immediately after its cessation from Spain 'to satisfy British curiosity concerning the territory acquired' (Howgego). The map of Mobile is included with a letter on the colony by Captain Thomas Robinson.

While the Roberts book appears occasionally on the market, this chart of the bay is very rarely seen without the book.

Rarity

We were unable to locate any other examples in dealer catalogs listed in AMPR.

Detailed Condition: