



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

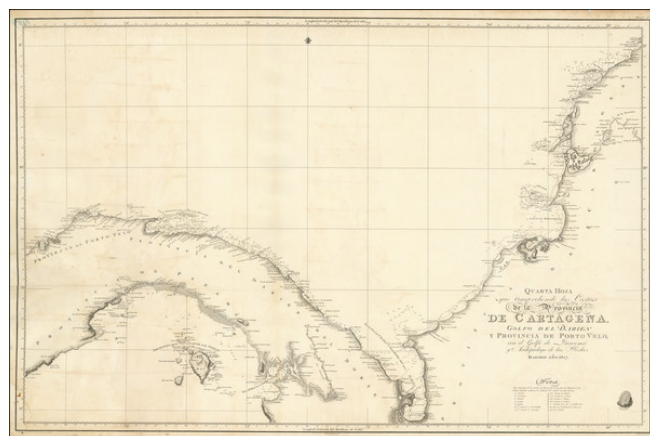
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(Colombia and Panama) Quarta Hoja que Comprehende las Costas de la Provincia de Cartagena, Golfo Del Darien y Provincio de Porto Velo con el Golfo de Panama y Archipelago de las Perlas. Madrid Año 1817. [Fourth Sheet that Covers the Coasts of the Province of Cartagena, Gulf of Darien and Province of Porto Bello with the Gulf of Panama and Archipelago of the Pearls. Madrid, Year 1817.]

Stock#: 95581
Map Maker: Direccion Hidrografica de Madrid
Date: 1817
Place: Madrid
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 37 x 24 inches
Price: \$ 2,400.00



Description:

Rare first state this Spanish sea chart of the coastline of Colombia and Panama.

Quarta Hoja que Comprehende las Costas de la Provincia de Cartagena, Golfo Del Darien y Provincio de Porto Velo con el Golfo de Panama y Archipelago de las Perlas, printed in Madrid in 1817, represents the maritime geography of Colombia and Panama. As a sea chart from the first state of its edition, it captures the maritime survey work of Brigadier Joaquin Franciso Fidalgo from the late 18th century, a time when Colombia and Venezuela were on the cusp of independence.

The 18th century saw the Spanish territories in the Americas approaching a significant shift in political dynamics. Within this context, the necessity for accurate maritime navigation led to detailed charting. The hydrographical expeditions of Fidalgo and Churruca inform the *Quarta Hoja*. Their work primarily focused on the North American coastlines, aiming to improve Spanish maritime commerce in regions such as the Gulf of Mexico, Florida, and the Antilles.

Joaquin Francisco Fidalgo's contributions to Spanish naval exploration were notable. Having been appointed commander in 1791, he led a division of brigs in collaboration with Churruca. Their explorations extended to territories between Panama and Guajira, Venezuela. Fidalgo's involvement in naval matters continued with the establishment of a nautical school in Cartagena de Indias. By 1810, Fidalgo took on the role of commander of the Hydrographic Office in Spain.



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The chart's utility is underlined by its detailed depiction of the maritime terrain. A legend indicates various seabed types from "A. Arena" (sand) to "P. Piedra" (stone). Regions such as the "Archipelago de la Perlas" and the provinces of "Port Velo," "Darien del Norte," "Panama," and "Cartagena" are also precisely marked, reflecting the geography of the period.

Detailed Condition:

Minor soiling in the margins. A few professionally mended tears at the edges, namely on the left side.