



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

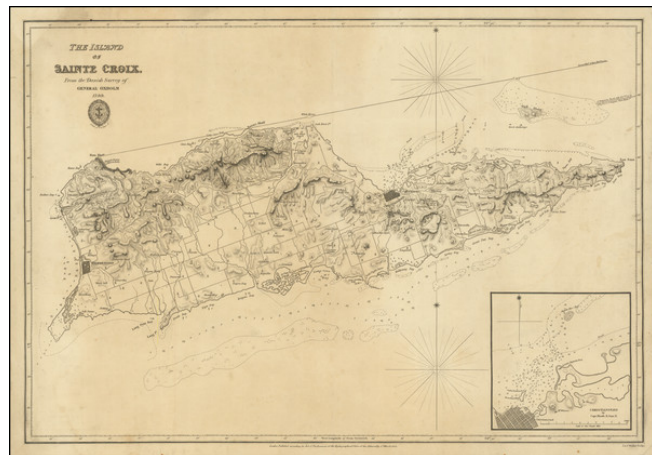
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The Island of Sainte Croix From the Danish Survey of General Oxholm 1799.

Stock#: 98223
Map Maker: British Admiralty
Date: 1831
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 23.25 x 15.75 inches
Price: \$ 1,200.00



Description:

Early British Sea Chart of Saint Croix

Detailed map of the Island of Saint Croix, published by the British Admiralty in 1831.

The British Admiralty chart of the Island of Saint Croix, published in 1831, provides an essential cartographic record of this part of the Virgin Islands during the early 19th century. This map draws its significance from its historical context, detailing an island that was pivotal in the larger framework of colonial geopolitics.

Historically, the accurate mapping of regions like the Virgin Islands held importance due to their strategic and economic value during the periods of colonial exploration and expansion. St. Croix, with its distinct geographical features and harbors, became a vital reference point for naval and merchant routes. Hence, the decision of the British Admiralty to commission such a chart during this time was consistent with these maritime interests.

A distinguishing feature of this 1831 chart is its reliance on the surveys of the Danish mariner General Peter Lotharius Oxholm, executed in 1799. Oxholm's survey stands as a significant contribution to the mapping of the region. This map was the second of its kind for St. Croix, offering a detailed and reliable representation of the island's topography.

Predating Oxholm's efforts was the work of I. M. Beck, who presented the island's subdivision into quarters and estates. Beck's map, titled "Tilforladelig Kort over Eylandet St. Croix" and engraved in Copenhagen in 1754, introduced this subdivision framework that would be referenced by many



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cartographers in the subsequent century.

The British Admiralty chart, influenced by both Oxholm and Beck's work, provides an objective depiction of St. Croix. Its importance lies not just in its representation of the island's physical features, but also in its embodiment of the methodical and precise approach to cartography during the 19th century. This chart is a testament to the evolution of map-making and the importance of St. Croix in maritime history.

Detailed Condition:

Laid on linen. Toned and soiled.