

Coppy

[begin scan 1]

Portland, November 11, 1839

Mr. Thomas Moore

Dr sir, yours of the 8th I received, in noting its contents must inform you, it is not in my power to comply with your request. I am far advanced in age (in my 73 year) and too infirm for an undertaking of this kind, as I could not think of preparing a chart of any part of the coast, unless I could trace the whole shore & take the necessary soundings, which would require a number days, perhaps weeks for its accomplishment.

The charts of the coast, published by the English prior to the american revolution, were deficient in marking the ledges on the seaboard (the most essential part of the mariners chart) hence the necessity of a close survey.

The continuation of the chart, on a large scale, from Wood Wood Island to Cape Ann, I think is much wanted, but unless correct it is best to be let alone. A resurvey of the above mentioned sea coast by a competent Person, would not be an arduous task, the necessary soundings at the entrance of the different harbors & inlets would be the most difficult & expensive part of it.

Should you pursue this undertaking, any information in my power to give, is at your service.

Respectfully yours,
Lemuel Moody

[end scan 1]

[begin scan 2]

[All text is crossed out. Some of the text appears to be a rough draft of the letter reproduced in Scan 1. The following transcription is of that portion which is not repeated in Scan 1.]

The information

you received on the return of Mr. J. C. Moody to Boston, was ~~only~~ in part correct. I did not prepare any of the 10 charts published by Capt. Porter, but ~~only~~ three of those charts, extending from Wood Island & Winter Harbor to the mouth of the Kennebeck. I published in 1826, & Capt. Porter took the liberty of copying those charts and publishing them with his own without my knowledge or consent, and as my friends inform me, the only part of his 10 charts that can be defended on those charts which you Lithographed, were shown to me 10 or 12 years since by Capt Porter, who went to me to adi in the publication, but I refused on the grounds that they were not fit to be made public, unless the whole was resurveyed, which would be an arduous undertaking.

[end scan 2]

[begin scan 3]

Boston, November 8, 1839

Mr. L Moody

Dr. sir

Being informed by Mr. Jna. E. Moody who recently visited you that you had prepared the originals from which we lithographed the 10 charts of the Coast of Mine for the late Capt. Porter. I beg to request that you will prepare the requisite matter to continue the last one to the boundary line of Massachusetts.

I need not refer to the importance of accuracy in the required Chart, but would observe that an early completion of the same is equally desirable. Upon receipt of the chart I will remit the amount of your account immediately. I hope you will be as reasonable as you can in your charge, having already lost nineteen hundred dollars by this undertaking.

Will you oblige me with a few lines stating how soon I may hope to receive this chart.

Yours very respectfully,
Thos. Moore

Mr. Moody

Dr. sir. Having noted the accuracy of your charts of Casco Bay, from experience, I hope to have the pleasure of lithographing another from the same hand as soon as possible.

Yours with respect,
John E. Moody

[end scan 3]