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(Philippines) A Chart of the Passages Between The Philippine and the Isles of Borneo and Mindanao, with those to the Southward of the Sooloo Archipelago and The Island Mindanao

Stock#: 95487
Map Maker: Laurie / Whittle
Date: 1794
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 23.5 x 35.5 inches
Price: \$ 7,500.00



Description:

This attractive, elaborate chart of the southern Philippines, published by Robert Laurie and James Whittle in London on May 1, 1794, is an invaluable portrayal of the maritime intricacies of the Southeast Asian archipelago. This chart, with its detailed portrayal of Mindanao, the Sulu Archipelago, and parts of the Celebes Sea, offers a comprehensive view of key maritime routes, critical landforms, and noted harbors in the late 18th century.

The final decades of the 18th century were a pivotal time for European exploration and colonial ambitions in the Asia-Pacific region. As European powers sought to establish and expand their trade routes and territories in Southeast Asia, accurate maritime charts became essential tools.

The map includes "Isle S. Juan from le Gentil's Chart" along with a note "NB. NB. This Isle of St Juan is omitted in several Maps, Chiefly in that of Murillo, and in the Small Chart given to the Officers of the Royal Captain at Surigao." San Juan Island is an enigmatic inclusion on early maps of the Philippines. It corresponds reasonably well to the present-day Siargao Island, which was discovered by the Spanish *San Juan de Letrán* in 1543. But has received attention as a kind of phantom island on early maps, a point alluded to in the note seen here.

Insets of the Bay of Sooloo and the Harbour of Silla underscore the importance of these areas for maritime activities, both for local traders and foreign merchants. The inclusion of specific routes, such as the "Track of the Warren Hastings," indicates the methodical compilation of firsthand navigational experiences that have contributed to the map's creation.



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The chart includes numerous coastal profiles -- topographical illustrations of the islands' elevations. These visual additions provide a tangible sense of the region's geography, bridging the gap between abstract cartographical representations and the actual landscape as experienced by navigators of the era.

Rarity

The chart is very rare on the market. This is the third example we have seen in more than 25 years.

Detailed Condition: