



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Eastern Passages To China Sheet II (southern Mindanao to Timor and North Australia)

Stock#: 29417
Map Maker: Horsburgh
Date: 1849
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 37.5 x 25 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Detailed sea chart of the region extending from the southern tip of Mindanao to North Australia and Timor, showing Boutton's Passage and Pitts Passage, by the East India Company in 1849.

The need for more accurate charts was forcibly brought home to James Horsburgh on May 30, 1786, when his ship wrecked off the coast of Diego Garcia 'in consequence of an error in her chart' (DNB). For almost the next twenty years Horsburgh gathered information about the sea lanes travelled by the East Indiamen, both from his own observations - most particularly during a seven year period when he commanded a ship called the 'Anna' - and from the work of others. The value and importance of his observations and the resulting charts was swiftly recognized and they were published over a lengthy period, with revisions being made as they were needed.



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Horsburgh was rewarded by being elected a member of the Royal Society in March 1806, and more importantly from a financial point of view, he was appointed hydrographer to the East India Company in October 1810.

In the manuscript notations at bottom right, the name of Captain Carl Hagström appears, and it is likely that he used this chart on journey from Melbourne to London. Captain Hagström had a bit of a colourful past in Australia. As reported by the Melbourne newspaper The Argus and the edition of Friday, 15 December 1854 and the Sydney Morning Herald on Wednesday, December 20, 1854:

C. Hagström, master of the barque Amazon appeared on Wednesday 13, at the Williamstown police court before Lieutenant Crawford and A.D. Pasco, J.P., to answer the complaint of Mr. Charles Broad, Assistant Immigration Officer, for having no passenger list of the seventy passengers he had on board. In our Monday's issue our readers were informed that Detective Ward recognised one of these, by the name Benjamin Marks, as a prisoner of the Crown illegally at large, whilst perambulating Elizabeth Street. Under these circumstances, the Police Magistrate told Captain Hagström about the provisions of a very salutary act, relative to the influx of criminals into Victoria, and for want of the necessary document fined him £20 and costs. Seventy steerage passengers, by this ship, are now turned loose amongst But despite the hefty fine the good Captain was soon back in business.

Detailed Condition:

Minor soiling.