



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman  
Antique Maps Inc.**

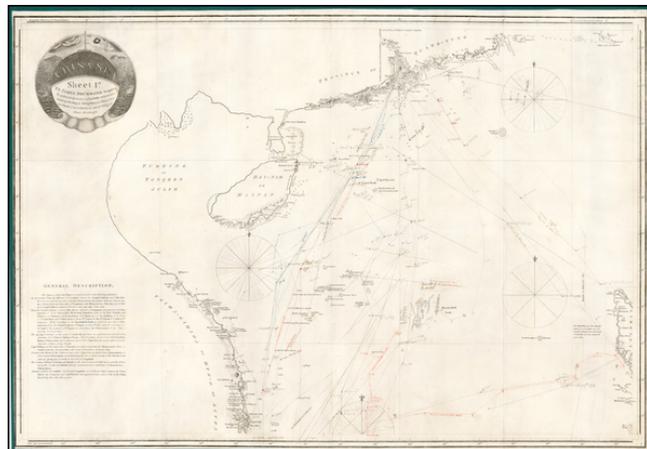
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**China Sea Sheet 1st. To James Drummond Esquire In acknowledgement for his laudable endeavours towards perfecting the Navigation of the China Sea this Chart is inscribed by his most Obliged James Horsburgh (China, Hong Kong, Philippines, etc)**

**Stock#:** 34095  
**Map Maker:** Horsburgh  
**Date:** 1806 (1815)  
**Place:** London  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 35 x 25 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



**Description:**

A rare sea chart of the South China Sea, published by James Horsburgh in 1815.

This is the revised 1815 edition of the chart, which was first published in 1806. Hong Kong and Victoria are still unnamed, but Macao is present. Also shown are Canton and Whampoa, regular ports of call for vessels engaged in the China trade, the tea clippers being the most famous.

This example includes annotations and sailing information from a number of early voyages, primarily headed toward Canton in the 1830s.

Below the title is a "General Description" which explains how the chart was constructed and its noteworthy deficiencies., a very unusual feature. :Below is a key to the "Probable Dangers not marked in the Chart". Of note is the unusual cartouche utilized by Horsburgh in the early editions of this map only.

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.

The early charts are very rare. OCLC lists two institutional examples: that in the National Maritime Museum and the other in the National Library of Australia, both with additions to 1815. We note only 1 example of the 1815 edition has appeared in a dealer catalog in the past 30 years.

**Detailed Condition:**

Extensive annotations for voyages dating as late as the 1830s.