



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Gaspar Strait Surveyed by Officers of the United States Navy 1854.

Stock#: 35044
Map Maker: British Admiralty
Date: 1866
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 25 x 38 inches
Price: \$ 395.00



Description:

Rare example of this authoritative sea chart of the Gaspar Strait, Indonesia, a critical point of passage for navigation en route from Singapore to the Sunda Strait.

This fine sea chart details the Gaspar Strait that runs between the islands of Bangka (called Banka on the chart) and Belitung (called Billiton on the chart), located off of the east coast of Sumatra, Indonesia. The treacherous passage was on the main shipping route from Singapore to the Sunda Strait (which runs between Java and Sumatra), which marked the entrance to the Indian Ocean.

The strait was named 'Gaspar' after a Spanish sea captain who traversed the channel in 1724, on his way from Manila to Spain. Clearly evident on the chart, the waters in and around the straits presented



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innumerable navigational hazards, and while frequented, the straits were considered to be especially perilous. As noted in the Great Britain Hydrographic Department's *The China Sea Directory*, vol. 1 (1878):

"Many fine ships have been lost in Gaspar strait; not a few on the Alceste reef, from wrongly estimating their distance from the land; but the majority of instances from causes which might have been guarded against by the exercise of due care and judgment."

This chart was then considered to be the authoritative guide for navigating these waters. First issued by the British Admiralty in 1854, it was based on surveys conducted by the U.S. Navy. The chart was then continually updated, most notably by surveys conducted in 1860 by W. Stanton, a sailing master of the Royal Navy, as well as Dutch charts (the Netherlands was then the colonial ruler of Indonesia). The present example was printed towards the end of 1866, following corrections done up to October of that year. The coastlines are demarcated by advanced trigonometric surveys, while the sea itself features numerous bathymetric soundings.

The present chart is rare on the market, owing to the fact that the survival rate for such working sea charts is very low.

Detailed Condition: