



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard  
La Jolla, CA 92037

[www.raremaps.com](http://www.raremaps.com)

(858) 551-8500  
[blr@raremaps.com](mailto:blr@raremaps.com)

## Western Approaches to Singapore . . . From Admiralty Surveys to 1923 . . .

**Stock#:** 36127  
**Map Maker:** British Admiralty  
**Date:** 1927  
**Place:** London  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 36 x 29 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

A fine large-scale sea chart of the western approaches to Singapore Harbour, issued in 1927 by the British Admiralty.

This important chart shows what is now downtown Singapore, Keppel Harbour and the far southeastern reaches of the Straits of Malacca, then, as now, one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world. Viewed as the authoritative navigational pilot for the western approaches to the city, the map includes unnumberable bathymetric soundings, markings of hazards and notes on where vessels are to anchor on various occasions, such as during monsoons.

At the time, Singapore recorded 555,000 inhabitants and was one of the fastest growing cities in the



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British Empire, and the capital of the Straits Settlements, Britain's colonial holdings in the Malay Peninsula. The city center is located in the upper right of the map, and while much land reclamation had already taken place, the urban area was still very much concentrated on the Singapore River. The construction of the Marina District was still far in the future, so that Raffles Place and its Georgian revival buildings occupied a position near the river's mouth, right on the harbour's shoreline.

Clearly evident are the massive commercial and naval docklands at Keppel Harbour, centered around the 'Empire Dock', connected to the Malay mainland by a network of railways. Singapore was then the largest base of the Royal Navy in Asia and along with Hong Kong, Shanghai and Yokahama, one of the leading maritime hubs of Asia.

The present example is exceptional, in that it survives in very fine condition, as most charts of this kind suffered due to heavy use at sea.

**Detailed Condition:**