



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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(East Indies, Straits of Bangka & Gaspar) (first edition with extensive manuscript notes)

Stock#: 38865
Map Maker: Horsburgh
Date: 1826
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 39 x 26 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

First edition of Horsburgh's chart of the Banda Strait and Gaspar Strait, with part of Sumatra, published by the East India Company.

The present example is heavily annotated, showing both early navigational notes at sea, as well as updated information on the location of certain Shoals, etc., including (in the northeastern section of the chart) Derby Shoal, Sharick Shoal and Wild Pigeon Shoal (later also called Hawkins Shoal). Coral Rock is also added.

The evolution of this chart from the first edition to the later editions is quite remarkable. The following link shows the 1850 edition, which shows dramatically revised coastlines and other details: {{



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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 India men, 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.

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.

Detailed Condition:

Linen-backed sea chart. Chart is soiled and creased, with extensive annotations.