



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## To the Honourable Jonathan Duncan Governor of Bombay, this Plan of Bombay Harbour is inscribed by his most obliged and most obedient Servant James Horsburgh . . . 1806 . . . Additions to 1844

**Stock#:** 48575  
**Map Maker:** Horsburgh  
**Date:** 1806 (1844)  
**Place:** London  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 37 x 24 inches  
**Price:** \$5,800.00



### Description:

***A fine early plan of Bombay (Mumbai) Harbor, first published from the survey work of James Horsburgh in 1806.***

The chart is the result of Horsburgh's survey work in Bombay in 1803 and 1804, with additions by an Admiralty assistant to 1844. It includes a finely executed profile / approach view, extending from Malabar Hill to the Highland of Tull, with the Lighthouse on Old Woman Island and the buildings at Bombay Town plainly visible. The chart was originally released in 1806 and the 1844 reprint is listed in an 1845 advertisement in *Allen's Indian Mail* as selling for 10s 6d.

James Horsburgh (1762 -1836) was a Scottish hydrographer who worked for the British East India Company (EIC) and charted much of China, Southeast Asia, India and contiguous regions in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Horsburgh went to sea at the age of sixteen and was captured and imprisoned by the French at Dunkirk. After his release, he made voyages to the West Indies and Calcutta. In 1786, as first mate in the *Atlas*, Horsburgh sailed from Batavia to Ceylon and was subsequently shipwrecked on the island of Diego Garcia. This disaster influenced him in his decision to produce accurate maps after he found his way back to India.

EIC hydrographer Alexander Dalrymple published three of Horsburgh's earliest charts of the Straits of Macassar, of the western Philippines, and of the tract from Dampier's Strait to Batavia. In 1799, Dalrymple published Horsburgh's *Observations on the Eastern Seas* on behalf of the EIC.



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Meanwhile, Horsburgh continued his sailing career in the *Carron*, which had been taken up by the British government as a transport to the West Indies and, on his return to England, sailed again for Bombay. There, in April 1798, he was appointed to the command of his old ship, the *Anna*, and during the next seven years he made two voyages to England, besides several to China, Bengal, and Madras.

On the return trips to England in 1799 and 1801, Horsburgh became acquainted with the London scientific community including Sir Joseph Banks, the astronomer Nevil Maskelyne, and Henry Cavendish. Horsburgh kept barometric records for Cavendish during his voyages from 1802 to 1804, which elucidated the diurnal variation in the open sea between 26°N and 26°S. It was these measurements and his high society contacts that assured Horsburgh nomination and approval as a Fellow of the Royal Society upon his retirement from the sea in 1806.

Horsburgh continued to publish on nautical navigation. In 1806, he released *Memoirs Comprising the Navigation to and from China*. Next, in 1809 and 1811, Horsburgh finalized *Directions for Sailing to and from the East Indies, China, New Holland, Cape of Good Hope, and the interjacent Ports, compiled chiefly from original Journals and Observations made during 21 years' experience in navigating those Seas*, also known as the *India Directory*. These publications made Horsburgh a likely candidate for the position of hydrographer to the EIC, a post he gained in 1810. While serving as hydrographer he revised the *Directory*, with subsequent editions in 1816-7, 1826-7, and 1836. He also oversaw the compilation and publication of the EIC's *Atlas of India* in 1827.

Horsburgh died in 1836. However, his legacy lived on. Friends and admirers in Canton raised a memorial subscription and erected the Horsburgh Lighthouse on Pedro Branca in the Strait of Singapore. With the permission of his children, the Admiralty took up the *Directory* and released editions in 1841, 1852, 1855, and 1864. After his death and with the demise of the EIC, his charts passed to the Admiralty Hydrographic Office, who reissued them.

This chart, with revisions up to 1844, was likely one of these reissues. It is not completely revised, however, as the map is still dedicated to Jonathan Duncan, Governor of Bombay. Duncan served as governor from 1795-1811, when he died. The editor, possibly chief naval assistant Edward Dunsterville or John Walker Jr. (son of the chart's engraver), thus updated the geography, leaving the other elements of the chart as they were originally laid down.

The chart was engraved by 'J. Walker'. This is John Walker Sr. of the Walker engraving family which operated in Liverpool and London from the 1780s to the 1870s. Walker Sr. was a hydrographer to the



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Admiralty and published numerous charts for both Alexander Dalrymple and James Horsburgh. John Walker Jr. succeeded Horsburgh as hydrographer to the EIC after the latter's death.

Sources:

Cook, Andrew S. 'Horsburgh, James (1762-1836)', *ODNB*, Oxford University Press, 2004.

Ritchie, G.S. *The Admiralty Chart: British Naval Hydrography in the Nineteenth Century* (Durham: Pentland Press, 1995), 215.

J. Walker (1) and (2) in Laurence Worms and Ashley Baynton-Williams, *British Map Engravers* (London: Rare Book Society, 2011).

**Detailed Condition:**