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A Map of Bengal, Bahar, Oude & Allahabad with Part of Agra and Delhi Exhibiting the Course of the Ganges from Hurdwar to the Sea by James Rennell, R.F.S. . . 1786

Stock#: 50034
Map Maker: Faden
Date: 1786
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 42 x 28.5 inches
Price: \$ 650.00



Description:

Detailed map of the upper Indian provinces, extending to Tibet in the north and the Bay of Bengal in the south.

This map was drawn by James Rennell F.R.S., Surveyor General of India, and engraved from the original drawing in the Possession of the East India Company. The map includes a great amount of detail and shows roads and military outposts.

Cartouche shows a bearded sea god resting his arm on a bull's head, and an alligator and leopard are beside him. At right, an Indian woman holds a bowl over a kneeling man, as two other men look on.

States of the Map

An inexhaustive census has located three states of the map:

1. Cities in the Kathmandu Valley shown, but not named
2. "Part of Thibet" introduced in large lettering in the upper left of the map.
3. Cities in the Kathmandu Valley named. Berar also named.

James Rennell

James Rennell (1742-1830) was a pioneering English geographer, historian, and oceanographer. He was responsible for the first approximately accurate map of India and published the *Bengal Atlas* (1779). Both works were important for British colonial interests in the Subcontinent.



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Rennell is best known for his survey of India, the first scientific survey of the Subcontinent ever conducted. While serving in the Royal Navy from 1756 to '63, Rennell learned the skills of an expert colonial surveyor. He accompanied Alexander Dalrymple to the Philippines in 1762. Rennell joined the East India Company in India. He served as surveyor general of Bengal (1764-77) and of Bihār and Orissa (1767-77). He left India in 1777, returning to London where he continued to work on geographical research and publishing until his death in 1830.

William Faden

William Faden (1749-1836) was a prominent London mapmaker and publisher. He worked in close partnership with the prolific Thomas Jeffreys from 1773 to 1776. In 1783, Faden assumed ownership of the Jeffreys firm and was named Geographer to the King in the same year. Faden specialized in depictions of North America and also commanded a large stock of British county maps, which made him attractive as a partner to the Ordnance Survey; he published the first Ordnance map in 1801. The Admiralty also admired his work and acquired some of his plates which were re-issued as official naval charts. After retiring in 1823 the lucrative business passed to James Wyld, a former apprentice.

Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color in full. Minor offsetting.