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**Entrance to the Chou-Kiang or Canton River From The Outer Islands To Lintin
Surveyed By Capt. D. Ross Bombay Marine 1815**

Stock#: 55321
Map Maker: British Admiralty
Date: 1840
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 25.3 x 19.5 inches
Price: \$12,000.00



Description:

The Most Accurate Chart of Hong Kong and The Pearl River Delta During the First Opium War

Rare British Admiralty sea chart of mouth of the Pearl River from Macao Island to Hong Kong and the New Territories, published in March 1840.

The chart depicts the results of a survey conducted by Captain Daniel Ross of the Bombay Marine in 1815. Ross's survey was the most detailed and accurate charting of Hong Kong and environs of the period. In 1807, Daniel Ross was directed to survey the China Seas by the East India Company. He spent the next 13 years surveying the Chinese Coastline and other parts of the China Sea and contiguous waters and became the de facto British expert in the region.

Ross's surveys were not widely published until the First Opium War (1839 - 1842), when his work was used as the base information for the present chart, which was revised and improved the work of Captain I. A. Douglas, who had been deployed fighting Chinese piracy in the region and whose work resulted in an improved survey of the region in 1839, at the outset of the First Opium War. Place names reference in the area of Hong Kong include Pirate Bay, Woody Islet, Bluff Point, Tytam, Fishhouse, and Junk Town.

Ross's chart was reissued in March, 1840 at the outset war, prior to the taking of Hong Kong by Commodore Bremer in 1841 and the publication of Sir Edward Belcher's chart of the island first issued in 1843, which was based upon Belcher's survey of Hong Kong after landing his vessel *the H.M.S. Sulphur* on Possession Point on January, 26, 1841.



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Captain Ross's survey of the region, together with Belcher's 1841 manuscripts, were used to negotiate the 1842 Treaty of Nanking at the conclusion of the first Opium War, which resulted in the British colonization of Hong Kong.

Captain Daniel Ross

Ross joined the Bombay Marine in 1795. Between 1806 and 1820 he was engaged in surveying the coast of China: he made surveys of part of the Bohai Sea and of Guangdong, as well as some of the eastern islands. His election as a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1822 reflected the reputation which he had acquired during that period.

In 1823, Ross was appointed Marine Surveyor General at Calcutta and remained in that position until he resigned his appointment in November 1833. After his resignation he retired to Bombay, where he was Master Attendant, and was appointed President of the Geographical Society of Bombay in 1838. Following his retirement as President on grounds of ill-health in 1849, shortly before his death, the Bombay Geographical Society appointed him Honorary President. The minutes of the Society record that:

Captain Ross had established for himself a European reputation of a high order, as one of the most practical and correct of Eastern Hydrographers; and the fortunes of many merchants, and the lives of many mariners, have been saved by the results of his patient and scientific labors.

Rarity

Ross's chart is of the utmost rarity. OCLC lists only the example in the British Library. We are aware of only 1 other example on the market in the past 10 years.

Detailed Condition:

Minor soiling and a small fold split at the lower centerfold.