



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

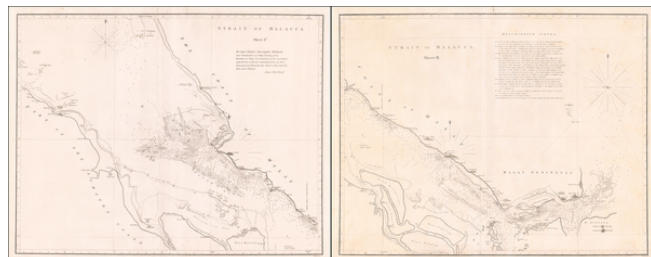
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Strait of Malacca Sheet 1st. . . [and] Strait of Malacca Sheet II . . . Additions to 1823

Stock#: 60506op
Map Maker: Horsburgh
Date: 1806 (1823)
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 31 x 24 inches (each sheet)
Price: SOLD



Description:

The First Modern Survey of the Strait of Malacca To Singapore Island and Pulau Bintang

Extremely rare pair of Sea Charts covering the Straits of Malacca, as surveyed and compiled by James Horsburgh.

First issued in 1806, the present example is revised, with additions to 1823. The 1823 revisions are the rarest and arguably the most important, created as a result of the systematic effort to chart the strait between 1815 and 1819, when British Colony at Singapore was founded.

The following summarizes the modifications from the earlier editions of 1806 and 1812, largely based upon the work of Daniel Ross, William F. Owen, W. Rose and Richard Moresby.

First Sheet Revisions

The First sheet is significantly revised from the 1806 edition. On the west side of the strait, the Sumatra Coast is completely revised, including a completely different coastline and extensive soundings. Some areas to the south are still conjectural, including a section noted as "said to be a safe channel . . ."

On the north side, the coastline is not changed to any great extent, but the North Sands and South Sands are now meticulously surveyed for soundings, shoals, small islands, etc.

Second Sheet Revisions

The Second Sheet is also significantly revised from the 1806 edition. The Entrance of the Rhio Strait is now surveyed with soundings. Pulo Battam has been surveyed, with a completely different coastline and the "Archipelago of Beautiful Islands with Channels between them." is now gone. The Great Carimon,



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Sabon and neighboring islands have been completely recast and Phillips Channel is named.

Further west, The islands on on the Sumatra coast are now shown, including Pulo Panjore, Pulo Rantow, Pulo Padang and Pulo Bucalisse, with significant detail on the Sumatran Coastline further west.

Mapping The Strait

The Straits of Malacca were then, as they still are now, the busiest shipping lanes in Asia, and charts of the passage were of the utmost importance. The route was especially consequential for the British as the straits were the gateway between India and the Far East, including their key base at Hong Kong. Britain, who held suzerainty over the Malay Peninsula since 1806, also required access to the key ports of Singapore and Malacca.

At the time that this chart was made, Singapore was just 4 years old, having been founded in 1819 by Sir Stamford Raffles. It would soon overtake Georgetown (Penang, Malaysia) to become the most important British center in Southeast Asia and was a rapidly growing commercial and naval port.

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At the time that this chart was made, Singapore was just over 40 years old, having been founded in 1819 by Sir Stamford Raffles. It had overtaken Georgetown (Penang, Malaysia) to become the most important British center in Southeast Asia and was a rapidly growing commercial and naval port. It would shortly be made (in 1867) the capital of the newly formed Crown colony of the Straits Settlements (consisting of large coastal portions of the Malay Peninsula). Yet, in spite of its importance, the entire island of Singapore had a population of only around 80,000.

The first important 19th Century chart of the Malacca Straits was William Heather's, *A New Chart of the Straits of Malacca...* (London, 1803), that subsequently ran into various editions published by J.W. Norrie. While impressive by circa 1800 standards, mariners soon realized that it contained many deficiencies and omissions. From around 1815, the British Royal Navy sent out surveying teams to chart various aspects of the straits. The Strait of Calam was surveyed by Captain William F. Owen in 1817. The Arroa Islands and the North Sands (off the coasts near Selangor) were surveyed by Captain Daniel Ross in 1819, while the Coast of Sumatra was charted by Lieutenants W. Rose and R. Moresby.



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Following the completion of this chart by Horsburgh, further touch up surveys of the Sumatran coast were undertaken by the crew of the *HMS Harrier* in 1834. These various surveys were compiled by the eminent hydrographer James Horsburgh (1762-1836), shortly before he died. The final revised chart was published in two different issues by the British Admiralty as *The Strait of Malacca. Western part.* (1840) and *Malacca Strait: the Arroa Islands with the North Sands and Calam Strait* (1840).

Rarity

The separately charts are extremely rare. We note the following surviving examples listed on OCLC and on-line sources:

1806 Edition: National Library of Singapore (both sheets), National Library of Australia (both sheets); National Maritime Museum (both sheets).

1812 Edition: National Library of Singapore (Sheet I). New Bedford Whaling Museum (both sheets); Independence Seaport Museum (both sheets)

1823 Edition: Yale (Sheet II). University of Lediem (both sheets).

1844 Edition. National Library of Singapore (both sheets)

Detailed Condition: