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Chart of the East India Islands, Exhibiting the several Passages between the Indian and Pacific Oceans; Inscribed to the Commanders and Officers of the British Ships Navigating those Seas, By A. Arrowsmith.

Stock#: 60624op
Map Maker: Arrowsmith
Date: 1812
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 75.5 x 52.5 inches (if joined)
Price: SOLD



Description:

Aaron Arrowsmith's rare antique four-sheet map of the East Indies, with additions to 1812.

The map shows the coasts of Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Philippines, and West Papua. Depths are shown.

The title is set at the upper left sheet, with a graticulated border, grid at one-degree intervals, numerous coastal soundings, wind directions, and shoals indicated. The map includes details of the best clipper routes to China at various months of the year, as well as the routes of various English navigators, including Cook.

An impressive four sheet chart of the navigation routes through the southeast Asian archipelago to China and the Philippines. Arrowsmith was a very inventive and accurate mapmaker. This wall map may have been commissioned specifically for an Asian trading company and was certainly aimed at English captains and companies trading to China and southeast Asia.

The detail on depth soundings, winds, obstructions, and general accuracy is a trademark of Arrowsmith's fine work. Arrowsmith moved to London in 1770 and was employed by both Faden and John Cary. In 1790, he set up on his own and made his reputation with his 8 sheet world map on Mercator's projection, 1790. It was not until the end of the 19th century that the Hydrographical office of the Royal Navy sent its surveying ships *Sulphur*, *Samarang*, *Herald* and others to the region that accurate nautical charts became available.



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This is a rare Arrowsmith chart. We have handled this edition only one other time, in 2015. We note an example of the 1824 edition in a dealer catalog (Shapero, 2004, Item 219) and one example of the 1809 edition (Manasek, 1992, Item 25). Christie's offered a copy of the 1812 edition of the chart in their July 15, 2005 Travel Sale (Lot 65).

Detailed Condition:

4 sheets, unjoined. Minor soiling.