



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
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Chart of the China and Yellow Seas, Showing the Track of the *Alceste*, from the time of her leaving Batavia till her Wreck.

Stock#: 61194
Map Maker: Hall
Date: 1820 circa
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: Good
Size: 9.5 x 16 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The Final Trip of the Alceste in 1816

Scarce map of Southeast Asia, illustrating the route take by HMS *Alceste*, carrying Lord Amherst on his 1816 diplomatic mission to China. On the return journey, she struck a reef in the Java Sea, which was subsequently plundered and burned by Malayan pirates.



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The map details the route taken by Amherst, along with the place the ship was lost, between Billiton and Bank islands.

HMS Alceste

HMS Alceste was built at Rochefort in 1804 for the French Navy as *Minerve*, an Armide-class frigate. In the spring of 1806, prior to her capture, she engaged *HMS Pallas*, then under Lord Cochrane. During the duel she ran aground, but Cochrane had to abort his attack when French reinforcements appeared.

The British seized the ship in September 1806, and the Royal Navy took *Minerve* into service as *Alceste* in March 1807.

Alceste continued to serve throughout the Napoleonic Wars. On November 29, 1811, *Alceste* led a British squadron that captured a French military convoy carrying more than 200 cannon to Trieste in the Balkans. After this loss, Napoleon changed the direction of his planned eastward expansion in 1812 from the Balkans to Russia. The British historian James Henderson has suggested that the two events were linked, and may have changed the course of the war.

In 1814, *Alceste* was converted to a troopship and used to transport British soldiers to North America during the War of 1812. Following the Treaty of Paris in 1815, *Alceste* carried Lord Amherst on his 1816 diplomatic mission to China. On the return journey, she struck a reef in the Java Sea; her wreck was subsequently plundered and burned by Malayan pirates.

Detailed Condition:

Toned and soiled, with some foxing.