



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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A Mapp of The Greate River Ganges As it Emptieth its Selfe into the Bay of Bengala. Taken From a Draught Made upon the Place by the Agents for the English East India Company, Never Before made Publique. By Iohn Thornton Hydrographer to the Honoble. East India Company

Stock#: 64091
Map Maker: Thornton

Date: 1680 circa
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 22 x 17.8 inches

Price: SOLD



Description:

An Exceptional English Rarity

Very important, and rare, English chart of the Ganges River delta and northern coast of the Bay of Bengal, drawn from materials supplied by the East India Company to the London chartmaker and publisher, John Thornton.

The chart poses all manner of condundrums, not least of which is that there is no evidence in the Company's files of Thornton ever having been Official Hydrographer to the East India Company, and yet, give the quasi-official nature of this publication, he must surely have had some grounds to lay claim to that title.

The map is found in the rare First Edition of John Thornton's *English Pilot The Third Book*, 1703, a pilot guide with charts describing the sea-route round Africa to the East Indies and Far East, the first volume of its kind published anywhere in Europe. This First Edition is recorded in four institutional locations. Yet, this chart is stylistically uncharacteristic of the other charts in the book, suggesting a separate origin, perhaps twenty years earlier, so first published about 1680. Certainly this example did not originate in a copy of the Third Book as the charts from the '*English Pilot*' were never coloured, while maps and charts from contemporary composite atlases generally were.



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Rodney Shirley records two copies of the map in the British Library, one in the *Third Book*, and one in a composite Thornton sea-atlas, with the title-page *Atlas Maritimus ...*, which he dates after 1702.

It the earliest detailed delineation of this area to be offered for public consumption; a proof of a comparable map, attributed to Moses Pitt (active as a map-publisher to about 1684), is recorded in two copies, both in collections closely associated with the East India Company, a further reason for moving the original publication date back to the early 1680s.

Rarity

The map is extremely rare. We note only the example in the British National Maritime Museum, British Library and the Bibliotheque National de France.

We note an example of the later Samuel Thornton state in the New York Public Library, Library of Congress and Biblioteca Nacional de Chile.

Description by Ashley Baynton-Williams

Detailed Condition:

Discoloration at lower right corner. Original outline color, laid on a second backing sheet at the time for insertion in a composite atlas, heavy stain at lower left.