



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

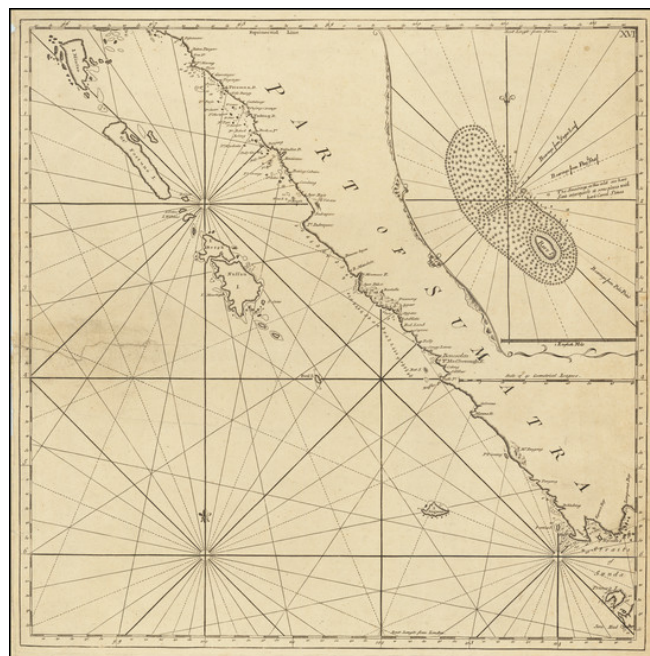
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[Part of Sumatra]

Stock#: 66388
Map Maker: Herbert
Date: 1760
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 17 x 17 inches
Price: \$ 450.00



Description:

The First Accurate English Sea Chart of Western Sumatra

Finely detailed sea chart of the Southwestern Coast of Sumatra.

The chart extends from Pulau Tanahmasa and the area north of Panang to the Straits of Sunda and Panaitan Island. Includes a large inset map of the Pulau Tikus and the surrounding reef (Ratt Island, off the coast of then Bencoolen-Fort Marlborough and now modern Bengkulu, Indonesia)).

Herbert's chart is the first accurate chart of the southwestern coast of Sumatra published in England. At the time, the region was an important British Trading Center, with the East India Company (EIC) based in Bencoolen-Fort Marlborough (modern Bengkulu, Indonesia), the sole permanent British settlement in Southeast Asia at the time the chart was printed.

The chart first appeared in Herbert's *A New Directory of the East Indies* (London, 1758) and includes significant navigational information, soundings, hazard locations and a fine treatment of the coastline.

South of Panang, adjacent to Ratt Island is the British settlement of Bencoolen and Fort Marlborough (shown in outline), then the British East India Company's only permanent base in Southeast Asia.



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Bencoolen was taken over by the EIC in 1685, ostensibly as trading center for the pepper trade. It survived for 140 years as a lone British base in a region dominated by the Dutch East India Company (VOC) and powerful local sultanates. In 1714, to shore up its position in Bencoolen, the EIC constructed Fort Marlborough.

Shortly after the chart was first published, Bencoolen was captured and ransomed by the French admiral, Charles Hector, Comte d'Estaing. The base was soon retuned to the EIC, and remained a British possession until 1825, when it was surrendered to the Netherlands, in exchange for the East India Company taking Malacca (Malaysia).

Detailed Condition: