



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman  
Antique Maps Inc.**

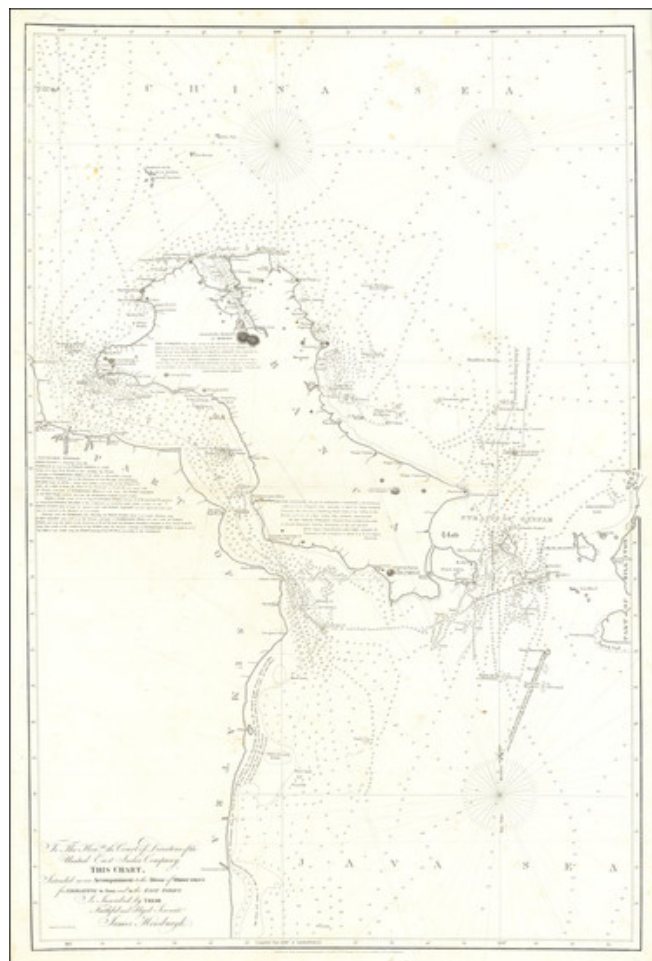
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**(Gaspar and Banca Straits) To The Honble The Court of Directors of the United East India Company This Chart, Intended as an Accompaniment to the Book of Directions for Navigating to, from and in the East Indies Is Inscribed by Their Faithful and obliged Servant James Horsburgh . . .**

**Stock#:** 67389  
**Map Maker:** Horsburgh  
**Date:** 1819  
**Place:** London  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 25 x 37 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



**Description:**

**"IN ALL THESE STRAITS Piratical Proas usually Lurk"**

An extremely detailed navigational map showing the Strait of Bangka and the surrounding Java Sea. The map includes exhaustive soundings, shoal locations, reference points, and much more. In addition, notes detail travel through the straits. One describes the currents and current directions at each point in detail. A second and third detail particularly difficult navigational areas: the Lucipara Passage and the Straits of



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Gaspar ("which out not to be attempted from September to April, for strong Southerly Currents and Adverse or Baffling Winds render it very tedious in this season.")

This makes for a visually simple yet astonishingly detailed chart of the area, with notes showing just how dangerous the straits were for navigation.

**James Horsburgh and the Quest for Better Navigational Charts**

The need for more accurate charts was forcibly brought home to James Horsburgh on May 30, 1786, when his shipwrecked off the coast of Diego Garcia 'in consequence of an error in her chart'. For almost the next twenty years Horsburgh gathered information about the sea lanes traveled by the East Indiamen, both from his own observations - most particularly during a seven-year period when he commanded a ship called the 'Anna' - and from the work of others. The value and importance of his observations and the resulting charts was swiftly recognized and they were published over a lengthy period, with revisions being made as they were needed.

Horsburgh was rewarded by being elected a member of the Royal Society in March 1806 and, more importantly from a financial point of view, he was appointed hydrographer to the East India Company in October 1810.

**Detailed Condition:**

Minor stains in map periphery.