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The Straits of Singapore with those of Durion, Sabon and Mandol.

Stock#: 70647
Map Maker: Jefferys
Date: 1778
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 23 x 17 inches
Price: \$ 16,500.00



Description:

Extremely rare chart of Singapore and the surrounding region, compiled by Thomas Jefferys, and published by Sayer & Bennett in London in 1778.

The map extends from Sumatra in the southwest to just north of Singapore in the north. Numerous islands including Batam ("Pulo Battam"), Bintan ("Pulo Bintan") and Lingga ("Pulo Lingan or Linging") are depicted.

The map includes two sea tracks, the track from Malacca to Pulo Aore, and the track of the East Indiaman *The Bute* in 1764-65.

Interestingly, the map shows an anchorage at "Governors Island", just north of St. John's Islands, no doubt denoting a nascent Singapore Harbour at the spot where Singapore Town would later be founded.

The Singapore Straits would not be systematically surveyed for another 65 years, with the task finally being completed by Thomson and Congalton in 1844. Until that point, this chart and its derivatives represented the state of the art in cartographic knowledge of the vital and difficult to navigate straits.

Rarity

There are at least two later states of the map, bearing the imprint of Sayer only in 1787, and the imprint of Laurie & Whittle 1794, after they took over from Robert Sayer and relabeled all of his plates. There is probably also an earlier state, from the last 1760s, as Jefferys died in 1771, seven years before this map was issued. A later, and frankly, less accurate, version of the map was issued in 1799 by Laurie and



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Whittle.

This chart was issued as plate 45 in the 1778 edition of *The Oriental pilot, or, A select collection of charts and plans... for the navigation of the country trade in the seas beyond the Cape of Good Hope*.

Detailed Condition:

Engraved chart on thick laid paper. Ink-stamped page number "67" in the lower right corner.