



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

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**A Chart of Palk's Straits and Bay with the Coast from Negapatnam to Kilcare and the
opposite coast of Ceylon. Improved from the Observations of Captn. George Lewis in
1783 . . . / The Passage between Point Ramen, and Ramisseram. By Mr. Stevens.**

Stock#: 74094
Map Maker: Laurie & Whittle
Date: 1794
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 20 x 28 inches
Price: \$ 1,400.00



Description:

Rare English sea chart of the area between India and Sri Lanka, published in Laurie & Whittle's Oriental Pilot.

At the top of the map is a detailed plan of Negapatnam (Nagapattinam), an important trading point since the mid-16th Century, when the Portuguese established it as a trading center, and which had been controlled by the Dutch since 1676 and the capital of Dutch Coromandel beginning in 1690. The town had only recently been taken by the British in the early 1780s and thereafter put under the administration of the British East India Company.



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The main charts provide an increasingly detailed treatment of the narrow passage between coastline of southern India and Sri Lanka, which would have then been impassible to all but the smallest vessels, with only a 3 to 5 foot depth as measured by Captain George Lewis of the *Prudence* in 1783

There would appear to be several states of the map dating back as early as about 1778, all of which are very rare.

Rarity

The map is very rare on the market. We note a single example of an earlier variant of the map by Robert Sayer, offered by Susanna Fisher in 1986.

Detailed Condition:

Old restoration at top right corner. Several minor tears, repaired at the edges of the map, entering the printed image. Minor discoloration along folds and minor offsetting.