



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

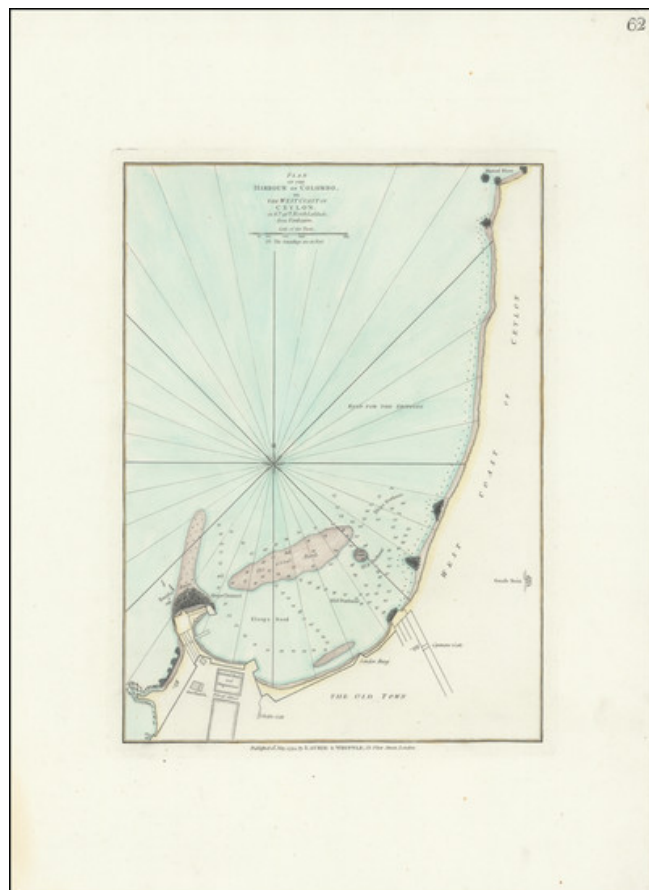
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Plan of the Harbour of Colombo, on the West Coast of Ceylon

Stock#: 94810
Map Maker: Laurie & Whittle
Date: 1794
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 11.5 x 16 inches
Price: \$ 1,200.00



Description:

Rare English Sea Chart of the Harbor and Environs of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Striking sea chart depicting the strategic harbor of Colombo during a time of significant geopolitical and trade transformations. Colombo, known in the 18th century for its harbor, was a focal point of colonial interests and trade routes. This period was marked by the waning influence of the Dutch East India Company and the burgeoning power of the British Empire in the region.

During the 18th century, Colombo emerged as a vital port city under Dutch colonial rule. The Dutch consolidated their control over the coastal areas of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and fortified Colombo as a central node in their maritime trade networks, dealing in cinnamon, ivory, and other exotic goods. The port's significance was due to its strategic location along the East-West sea trade routes and its capacity to service and provision ships.



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By the late 1700s, the British, who had already established their presence in other parts of India, recognized the strategic importance of Ceylon and its harbors, including Colombo, which were essential for maintaining dominance over sea routes and protecting their economic interests in Asia. The transition of power from Dutch to British control in 1796 marked a pivotal shift in Colombo's geopolitical status, laying the groundwork for its later development under British colonial rule.

The sea chart itself, with its detailed depiction of the coastline and depth soundings, was an important tool for navigation and military strategy, helping to guide merchant ships and naval vessels into the harbor.

Detailed Condition: