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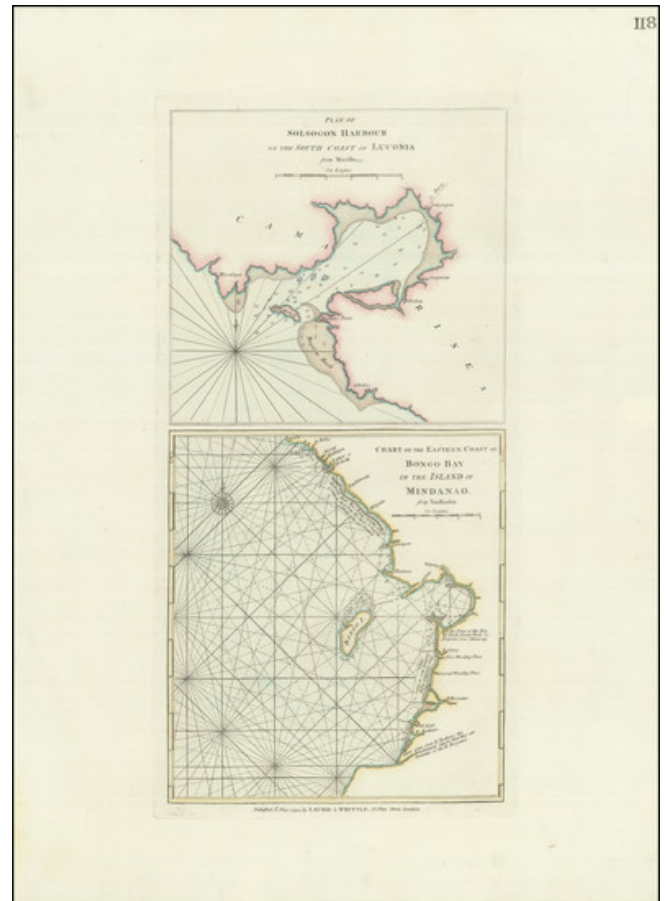
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[Philippines] Plan of Solsogon Harbour on the South Coast of Luconia [with] Chart on the Eastern Coast of Bongo Bay in the Island of Mindanao

Stock#: 94791
Map Maker: Laurie & Whittle
Date: 1794
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 9.25 x 19 inches
Price: \$ 975.00



Description:

Coastal Charts of Two Portions of the Philippine Islands: A Navigational Insight from 1794

Fine pair of coastal charts of portions of Luzon Island and Mindanao Island, part of the Philippines archipelago.

The islands are famed for its rich maritime history, and strategic significance in sea trade and navigation and have been a subject of interest to explorers, traders, and cartographers, aiming to understand its intricate coastline for safe and profitable navigation.

Plan of Solsogon Harbor on the South Coast of Luconia (Luzon)



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The first chart offers a detailed layout of the Solsogon Harbour. Solsogon (Sorsogon) is located at the southern tip of the Bicol Peninsula of Luzon. Sorsogon has always been a crucial point of maritime interest because of its strategic location. Its bay area provides a natural harbor, which has historically been used for trade, fishing, and as a vantage point against potential sea-based threats. The chart includes soundings and rhumb lines, straight navigational paths that would be followed using a constant compass bearing. The addition of several anchorages signified safe locations for ships to anchor and probably rest or make repairs.

Chart on the Eastern Coast of Bongo Bay in the Island of Mindanao

Bongo Bay in Mindanao is depicted in the second chart, providing a glimpse into the geographical challenges and opportunities along its eastern coast. Particularly intriguing is the inclusion of a reef located between Tubok and Tabongen. Reefs are natural barriers that can pose risks to navigation. Recognizing them in navigational charts is vital for sailors to circumvent potential dangers. Additionally, the chart indicates places along the coast where fresh water and wood – two essential resources for long voyages – could be procured. The presence of these spots painted a picture of how explorers and traders would interact with the environment, using it to replenish their supplies.

Both charts, derived from British explorations, bear testament to the British Empire's active involvement in Southeast Asia. The Philippines, being at the crossroads of major sea routes, naturally became a subject of interest. These detailed charts not only provided invaluable navigational insights but also reflected the larger geopolitical and commercial aspirations of the British during that period.

Detailed Condition: