



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

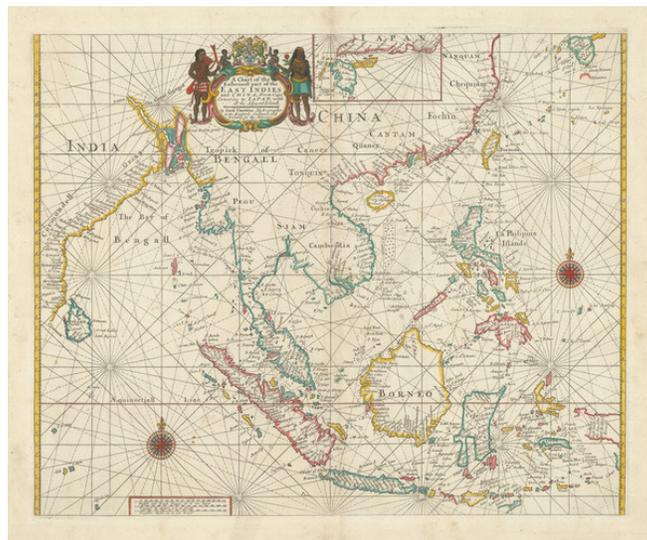
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A Chart of the Easternmost part of the East Indies and China, From Cape Comarine to Japan, with all the Adjacent Islands

Stock#: 95255
Map Maker: Thornton
Date: 1706 circa
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 21 x 17 inches
Price: \$ 18,500.00



Description:

A Chart of the Easternmost part of the East Indies and China, From Cape Comarine to Japan, with all the Adjacent Islands represents a significant contribution by hydrographer Samuel Thornton to the understanding of Southeast Asia in the early 18th century. Published in London circa 1706, this chart offers an extensive depiction of the region, which played a central role in English exploration and trade activities of the period.

This chart appeared in Samuel Thornton's reissue of his father's *English Pilot: The Third Book...the Oriental Navigation*, which was first issued in 1703. John Thornton had issued that chartbook as a competitor to the Mount & Page *Third Book* (first issued in 1701), itself a continuation of [the exceptionally rare Seller Third Book](#), first issued in 1675. Samuel took over publication from his father in 1706 or 1708, sources vary (John died in the latter year), before issuing a new edition in 1711.

Context

In the late 17th and early 18th centuries, the East India Company, under a royal charter granted in 1600, maintained the sole privilege for English trade with the East Indies. This expansive region, represented in its entirety on Thornton's chart, stretched from Cape Comorin in India to Japan, encompassing a variety of islands and mainland territories that figured in the company's commercial exploits.

The chart itself exhibits a detailed visual record of these Southeast Asian territories. Regions such as



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Bengal, Malaya, China, and the Straits of Singapore, among others, are marked, highlighting the English interest in these commercially viable and strategically important areas. The comprehensive depiction also reflects the depth of geographical knowledge the English had acquired through their continual exploration and engagement with Southeast Asia.

Adding to the chart's historical interest is the coat of arms of the East India Company, displayed above the title cartouche. This emblem, indicative of the company's standing between 1600 and 1709, marks the chart as a product of this era, before the company transitioned into the United East India Company. The presence of a misspelling in the company motto—"Deus Indicat" rendered as "Deus Indeat"—serves as a subtle yet intriguing detail.

In sum, Thornton's chart serves as a tangible manifestation of English interests in Southeast Asia in the early 18th century. It provides valuable insights into the state of English exploration, trade, and geographical knowledge during a pivotal time in the expansion of the East India Company.

States of the Map and Rarity

Very rare. We note one example of the first state having appeared in a dealer catalog in the last 30 years.

- 1703 circa: Imprint of John Thornton
- 1706-1708 circa: Imprint of Samuel Thornton
- 1716: Samuel Thornton imprint removed

Detailed Condition: