



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

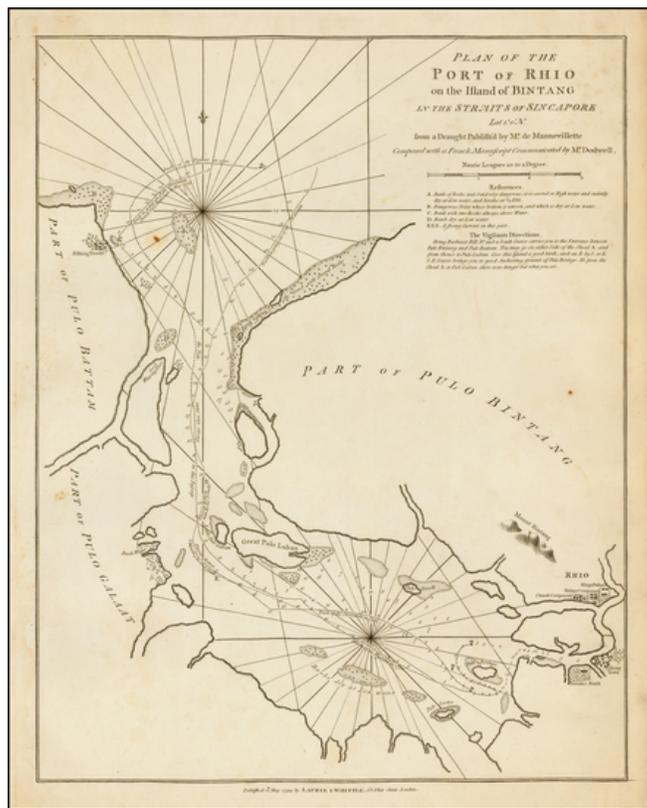
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Plan of the Port of Rhio on the Island of Bintang in the Straits of Singapore . . .

Stock#: 35338
Map Maker: Laurie & Whittle
Date: 1794
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 15.5 x 20 inches
Price: Not Available



Description:

A fine large format 18th-century sea chart of Bintan and Batam Islands, Indonesia, located on the Singapore Straits, published by the firm of Laurie & Whittle.

Bintan Island (formerly known as Bintang) and the adjacent island of Batam (Bataam) are part of the Riau (Rhio) Archipelago, strategically located along the southern edge of the Singapore Straits, the busiest passage linking the Indian and Pacific Oceans. The islands are today one of Southeast Asia's most favored resort destinations; being located only a 45-minute boat ride from Singapore.

Since the 3rd-century A.D. the island's main harbor, 'Rhio' (now Bintang Bay), the focus of the present chart, had been a major trading port. From about 1200 to 1500, it was the main base of the Malay pirates who preyed on shipping in the straits. Following the fall of Malacca to the Portuguese in 1511, Bintan became the capital of the great Johor Sultanate. During the 18th-century, when this chart was made, Bintan and the Riau Archipelago were under British influence, although the sultan still ran day-to-day affairs. The area would not become part of the Dutch East Indies until the Anglo-Dutch Treaty of 1824.



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The chart presents a very highly detailed hydrographic survey of Bintan Bay, and depicts the tracks of the vessels that mapped the harbor in the 1750s. Interestingly, it also features several socio-demographic details around the town of Rhio, including the labeling of the 'King's [Sultan's] Palace', the 'Chinese compound', the 'Malay Compound', and the 'Fishing Town' (inhabited by the Bugis). The 'Fishing Village' on Batam is also depicted.

The present chart was published by Laurie & Whittle in their *East India Pilot*. The chart is rare, and we are not aware of any examples of the separate chart appearing in dealer's catalogs or at auction during the last 25 years.

Detailed Condition: