



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

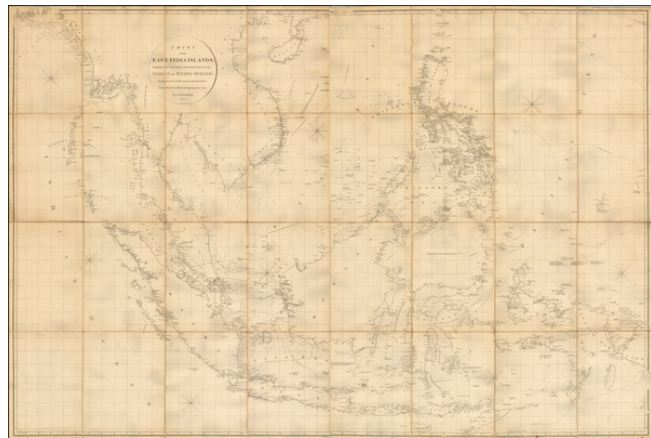
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Chart of the East India Islands, Exhibiting the several Passages between the Indian and Pacific Oceans; Inscribed to the Commanders and Officers of the British Ships Navigating those Seas, By A. Arrowsmith. Additions To 1809

Stock#: 49787
Map Maker: Arrowsmith
Date: 1809
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 75.5 x 52.5 inches (if joined)
Price: SOLD



Description:

The Only State of the Map Not To Show the Paracel Islands!

Fine example of Aaron Arrowsmith's rare 4-sheet map of the East Indies, with additions to 1809.

The map shows the coasts of the Philippines, China, Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Sumatra, Vietnam, Cambodia, the Spice Islands and West Papua. Depth shown by bathymetric soundings.

Title set at upper left sheet, with a graticuled border, grid at one degree intervals, numerous coastal soundings, wind directions, and shoals indicated. The map includes details of the best clipper routes to China at various months of the year, as well as the the routes of various English navigators, including Cook.

This 1809 state includes significant revisions from the original 1800 chart. Perhaps the most unusual, and in modern times, politically interesting change is that in this 1809 state of the map, the Paracel Islands have been completely removed in order to add navigational information off the Coast of Vietnam, but have not yet been added back by Arrowsmith. The islands do not re-appear until the issuance of the 1812 state of the map. As such, this entire Paracel island group is completely missing from the present state of the map.

Some of the more noteworthy revisions include:

Northeast Sheet



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- The mapping of the Philippines has been vastly improved
- Extensive navigational information and ship tracks have been added throughout the Philippines.

Northwest Sheet

- The Paracel Islands have been removed from the Vietnamese Coastline and replaced with several sets of sailing directions and ship tracks
- The Coast of Hainan has been completely reworked, with the western and southern coastlines completely changed and topographical features added in the interior
- The southern Coast of Vietnam and Cambodia has been completely revised, Sai-Gon City has been added and the "Japanese River" has been removed.
- The Islands South of Mergui (Myeik) and the coastline of Mynmar north of Myeik and Ayeyarwady Delta have been significantly revised

Southwest Sheet

- The islands south of Malaysia in the Straits of Singapore, extending south Po. Lingen, are significantly updated.
- The northern and western coastline of Sumatra is revised

The map presents an impressive four sheet chart of the navigation routes through the southeast Asian archipelago to China and the Philippines. Arrowsmith was a very inventive and accurate mapmaker. This map may have been commissioned specifically for an Asian trading company and was certainly aimed at English sea captains and companies trading to China and southeast Asia.

The detail on depth soundings, winds, obstructions and general accuracy is a trademark of Arrowsmith's fine work. Arrowsmith moved to London in 1770 and was employed by both Faden and John Cary. In 1790, he set up on his own and made his reputation with his 8 sheet world map on Mercator's projection, 1790. It was not until the end of the 19th century that the Hydrographical office of the Royal Navy sent its surveying ships *Sulphur*, *Samarang*, *Herald* and others to the region that accurate nautical charts became available.

This is one of Arrowsmith's scarcer charts. We note one example of the 1824 edition in a dealer catalog (Shapero, 2004, Item 219) and one example of the 1809 edition (Manasek, 1992, Item 25). We also note that Christies offered a copy of the 1812 edition of the chart in their July 15, 2005 Travel Sale (Lot 65).



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Detailed Condition:

4-sheets joined, with the whole dissected and laid on linen, as issued.