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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. Hydrographer to his Majesty 1824

Stock#: 49928
Map Maker: Arrowsmith
Date: 1824
Place: London
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG
Size: 75.5 x 52.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The Duke of Arcos Copy of Aaron Arrowsmith's Map of Southeast Asia, The Philippines & South China Sea

Fine example of Aaron Arrowsmith's rare 4-sheet map of the East Indies, updated to 1824, with the bookplate of the Duke of Arcos: [inventory_enlarge_link\('49928a'\)](#)

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 graticule 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 routes of various English navigators, including Cook.

The map was first issued in 1800, with revisions in 1809, 1812 and this 1824 state. We note the following significant changes from the 1812 edition:

Northwest Sheet

- The western coast of Tanasserim and Achipelago of Mergui and neighboring islands are revised
- The western coast of Malaysia from Phuket and to the south is completely revised, as are the islands
- The Chinese Coastline, south of Hong Kong, has been revised
- Additional place names added on Hainan Island



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Southwest Sheet

- The coast of western half of Java is completely revised and significant detail is added for the first time in the interior
- The shape of Penang Island and the west coast of Malaysia are revised
- The shape of Singapore, Batang, Bintang, Galat Table and Lingen Islands have all been revised, along with the contiguous southern tip of Malaysia, opposite the coast of Singapore
- The coast around Tanjong Booroo (Sumatra) is revised
- The coast of Banka is significantly revised

Northeast Sheet

- The Shape and details in Palawan Island (Philippines) is significantly revised
- The North coast of Mindanao Island is revised
- The Bashee or Sive Islands and Babuyane Islands are improved
- Northern Tip of Borneo with new place names

Southeast Sheet

- Eastern Part of Java extensively updated, with detail in the interior added
- The shape of Bali Island is revised
- Coast of Timor revised
- Several lengthy notes added
- West coast of Gilolo revised
- Coast of Waigeo Island 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



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available.

This is one of Arrowsmith scarcer charts. We note one example of the 1824 edition in a dealer catalog (Shapero, 2004, Item 219).

Detailed Condition:

Minor 4-sheets, each on a separate sheet of linen. With original slip case and chemise with the book plate of the Duque de Arcos. Front panel of Chemise detached.