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**To The Honble. the Court of Directors of the East India Company This Improved Map of  
India Compiled From all the Latest & most Authentic Materials Is Respectfully  
Dedicated by their most Obedient & most Humble Servant A. Arrowsmith**

**Stock#:** 60644  
**Map Maker:** Arrowsmith  
  
**Date:** 1816  
**Place:** London  
**Color:** Outline Color  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 95 x 105 inches (if joined)  
  
**Price:** SOLD



**Description:**

***Arrowsmith's Colossal Map of India, The Largest Map of India Published Before the Great Trigonometrical Survey.***

Excellent dissected example of Aaron Arrowsmith's extremely impressive nine-sheet map of India, published in London in 1816.

Arrowsmith's 1816 *Improved Map of India* was the greatest map of India published from information predating the Great Trigonometrical Survey (1802-1921). An 1876 catalog of maps of India elaborates the context of the map:

*As these special maps accumulated the want of a new general map of India soon began to be felt, to supersede those of D'Anville and Rennell. In 1816, Aaron Arrowsmith published his Map of India in nine sheets, on a scale of sixteen miles to an inch, which was the last great general map based on route surveys. His subsequent Atlas of South India, published in 1822, was based upon the trigonometrical surveys of Colonel Lambton, filled in by the officers of the Madras Institute. (Maps*



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of India, page 270)

Google Arts & Culture's Digitization of the Kalkriti Collection says of the large Arrowsmith *India*:

*This gargantuan map occupies a special place in the history of the cartography of India, in that it is both a great technical achievement and a monumental object of profound political symbolism. Arrowsmith's map is by far the largest, most accurate and most detailed general map of India made up to the time. It represents the apex of the Enlightenment Era Cartography of the subcontinent and is one of the finest maps of any subject produced during the early 19th Century...*

*Arrowsmith's map is a composite of a vast variety of carefully selected antecedents, so numerous they cannot possibly be covered here. However, the most authoritative sources available to Arrowsmith were the road route surveys done by military surveyors, either as part of general civilian mapping commissioned by the EIC (such as James Rennell's maps of Bengal, Bihar and Oudh) or surveys tracking military movement during campaigns. (Google Arts & Culture / Kalakriti Archives)*

Arrowsmith illuminates some of his cartographic sources for the map in a dedication under the title of the map:

*For the great additions and improvements in this republication of the Map of India I have to express my grateful thanks for the great assistance I have received \_ To His Grace the Duke of Wellington for valuable Materials collected during his Campaign to India, To Col. Allan, Genl. Kyd. Sir John Malcolm, Sir James Mackintosh, Dr. Buchanan, Mr. Sydenham, but chiefly to the Honble. the Court of Directors for their liberally permitting me the use of the truly valuable Map of Mysore by Col. Colin Mackenzie Surveyor General of India.*

Arrowsmith's large map of India followed his first separate map of India by 12 years and was a monumental production.

**Provenance:** Sothebys, October 20, 1992 (Sale 2942, Lot 844).

**Detailed Condition:**

Nine-sheet map joined on four separate sheets of linen. In this example, the two biggest sheets overlap in central India (see detail images). Some light offsetting.