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**Chart of the Philippine Islands, from the Spanish Chart 1808. The Adjacent Islands are added from the latest Surveys by A. Arrowsmith 1812. Additions to 1818**

**Stock#:** 60834op  
**Map Maker:** Arrowsmith  
**Date:** 1812 (1818)  
**Place:** London  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 26.5 x 39 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



**Description:**

***Unrecorded Arrowsmith Chart of the Philippines***

Extremely rare example of Aaron Arrowsmith's general chart of the Philippine Islands, first published in London in 1812. This state, with corrections to 1818, is unrecorded and previously unknown to scholars.

The chart shows the archipelago as it was known in 1818. The islands themselves break the frame of the map, emphasizing their size and number. Several ships' tracks are included in this edition. The most prominent is that of the *Descubierta* and the *Atrevida*, the purpose-built exploration used by Alejandro Malaspina on his Pacific survey that took in the state of the Spanish empire at the close of the eighteenth



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century.

The inclusion of this important Spanish expedition is also a reference to Arrowsmith's sources, which were also Spanish. The chart is based on the *Carta general del Archipiélago de Filipinas / Levantada en 1792 y 93 por los Comandantes y oficiales de las corbetas de S.M... Construida de orn. superior en la Dirección Hidrográfica; C. Noguera la delº; Jf. Cardano la grº; J. Morata la escribió*, by Felipe Bauzá. It was first published by the Spanish charting body, the *Dirección Hidrográfica*, in 1808.

The differences between this 1818 state and the original 1812 are mainly in the island groups surrounding the larger islands. What is the "Apo Bank" in the original is now the "Apo Shoal", and the islands trailing to the southwest of the shoal are drawn with more precision on the 1818 state. Busvagon, for example, is considerably larger in the 1818 and has two points of elevation included. Southeast, the Quiniluban Islands have increased in number and Malalais is now named. Farther south and just east, the Cagayan Islands also have more definition.

To the east, in the Surigao Islands, a new ship's track has been laid. This is the HMS *Psyche*, which explored the area in 1809. The *Psyche* experienced rough weather and conditions amongst the islands. They weathered a storm, cut an anchor, and nearly ran aground on a coral reef before sailing free. The ship's name has left its mark in the Psyche Passage.

**States of the Chart**

Arrowsmith's 1818 chart is apparently unrecorded.

The first state of the map was published in 1812. The 1812 edition of the map was advertised for sale in *Debates at the East-India House, During the Negotiation for a Renewal of the East-India Company's Charter . . . , Volume 2*, in an advertising section in the back of the volume. It also featured in an advertisement dated August 1813, "*Modern Publication and New Editions of Valuable Works, Pilots, Maps Charts &c. Printed For, And Sold Wholesale, Retail and for Exportation By Black, Parry & Co., Booksellers to the Hon. The East-India Company, Stationers, Map and Chart Sellers, Leadenhall Street, London.*"

The present example appears to be the second state, with additions to 1818. There was another state with additions to 1823, which seems to survive in a single example in the British Library.

The map was later re-issued by Samuel Arrowsmith, Aaron's son, in 1832. Three later states of a second edition (with the addition of an inset *Plan of the Bay of Manila*) were published by Richard Holmes Laurie in 1845, 1853, and 1862. The last of these was corrected from the charts of the Spanish



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cartographers Juan Morata and Francisco Coello, and the surveys of Commander William Thornton Bate. All of these later states are also extremely rare on the market.

A copy of the first state of the map can be seen here: <http://maps.bpl.org/id/14679>. The British Library also has a copy of the 1812 edition, catalogued under the original Spanish title, *Carta general del Archipiélago de Filipinas. Levantada en 1792, 93*, but credited to Arrowsmith.

**Rarity**

The chart is of the utmost rarity. We can locate no institutional examples of the 1818 state, and only the two aforementioned states of the 1812 edition (BPL and BL).

**Detailed Condition:**

Restoration along the top margin. Margins extended and neatline reinstated. A few minor tears on the edges, expertly repaired.