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## [Chinsurah Factory] Aanwysing der Voornaamste Wooningen, Poorten, Thuynen, Tanken, enz: op Hoegly Ao. 1721.

**Stock#:** 75971  
**Map Maker:** Valentijn  
**Date:** 1724  
**Place:** Amsterdam  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 14.5 x 11 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

#### *The Chinsurah Factory in Dutch Bengal*

Nice example of Francois Valentijn's plan of the town of the Dutch Chinsurah Factory on the Hooghly River.

Chinsurah is shown with west at the top, with various Dutch ships shown on the Hooghly River. The factory is shown as a walled structure, with manicured lawns, tree lined paths and water tanks. The key locates the Director's office and residence, the quarters for the clerks and guardsmen, various offices, warehouses, stables for horses and elephants, a prison and an insane asylum.

The map is featured in Valentijn's *Oud en Nieuw Oost-Indien*, a significant history of the Dutch in Maritime Asia and one written with rare access to the Dutch East India Company (VOC) archives and information.

### Chinsurah

Hugli is 25 miles north of Kolkata on the banks of the Hooghly River. The Portuguese settled in Hugli in 1537. The first British settlement in Bengal was in Hugli in 1651 and later abandoned in 1690 in favor of Kolkata.

In 1656, the Dutch East India Company created an independent directorate in Bengal, with Hugli as its headquarter. The factory (trading station) at Hugli was later moved to the nearby village of Chinsurah but



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continued to be called the Hugli factory. In 1825 Chinsurah and other Dutch settlements in Bengal were ceded to the British in exchange for British holdings in Indonesia.

**Oud en Nieuw Oost-Indien**

After spending sixteen years in the East Indies over the course of several voyages, Valentijn returned to his native Dordrecht. There, he finished his history of the East Indies, *Oud en Nieuw Oost-Indien*. The book was divided in five parts spread over eight volumes. It had over a thousand illustrations, including some of the most accurate maps of the region published to that date.

For the text, Valentijn borrowed heavily from contemporary works. To create such detailed maps and descriptions, Valentijn most likely also had access to the VOC's archives. These archives were closely watched and very few scholars or officials gained entry, particularly if they were likely to publish the contents of the repository. Indeed, Valentijn was lucky to see his work published at all.

Today, Valentijn's work is regarded as a veritable encyclopedia on maritime Asia. It is considered a useful collection of sources, from the eighteenth century and earlier, drawn from the VOC and personal papers. Some of his maps, particularly those of Australia, are drawn from manuscript sources now lost, making his history the lone surviving record of endangered knowledge.

This chart shows one of the world's most important features, the Cape of Good Hope, in detail. It was featured in an important publication chronicling the Dutch in the East Indies. It would be an advantageous addition to any collection of Cape of Good Hope, South Africa, or Dutch charts and maps.

**Detailed Condition:**