



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

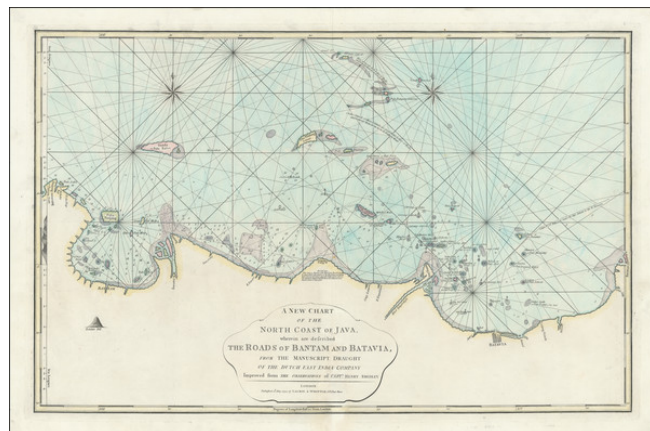
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A New Chart of the North Coast of Java, wherein are described the Roads of Bantam and Batavia, from the Manuscript Draught of the Dutch East India Company Improved from the observations of Captn. Henry Smedley

Stock#: 94736
Map Maker: Laurie & Whittle
Date: 1794
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 34.25 x 22 inches
Price: \$ 1,200.00



Description:

Prepared From Observations By Captain Henry Smedley in 1784

Rare navigational chart of the northern coastline of Java, including the Dutch East India Company (VOC) headquarters in Batavia, Laurie & Whittle's *East-India Pilot, or Oriental Navigator* . . .

Prepared from the work of Captain Henry Smedley in 1784, the chart highlights the strategic importance of this region during the high stakes contestation between England and the Netherlands, with particular focus on the storied locales of Bantam and Batavia.

The late 18th century was a critical period in the geopolitical dynamics of the Southeast Asian maritime realm. The northwestern Java coast became a center of imperial competing interests, as the region held the promise of lucrative spice trades, predominantly pepper. The British East India Company, in its ambition to rival the Dutch supremacy, established an entrepot in Bantam. However, by the time this chart was conceptualized, Bantam had faded in significance. In stark contrast, Batavia burgeoned into a sprawling metropolis, boasting a populace nearing a million, emerging as prime nexus of Java under the aegis of the Dutch East India Company (VOC), in the waning years of its existence.

Laurie and Whittle's chart is a comprehensive navigational guide. Its lineage traces back to the meticulous manuscript maps of the VOC, later refined and enhanced by an English draft from Captain Henry Smedley.

The chart is the result of observations and improvements made to prior Dutch charts by Captain Smedley,



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the commander of the East India Company ship *Raymond*. Smedley made several trips to China and India the 1780s and 1790s aboard the *Raymond*, but stopped in Batavia only in July 1784, where he improved several Dutch charts of the region, including this chart and Gerard Van Keulen's *Plan of the Road and City of Batavia on the North Coast of Java Island* from the same period. He also contributed improvements that were utilized by Laurie & Whittle for the charting of the Sunda Straits.

Rarity

As this chart only appears in the later editions of Laurie & Whittle's *East-India Pilot, or Oriental Navigator* . . . , it is scarce on the market.

This is the first example we have offered.

Detailed Condition: