



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

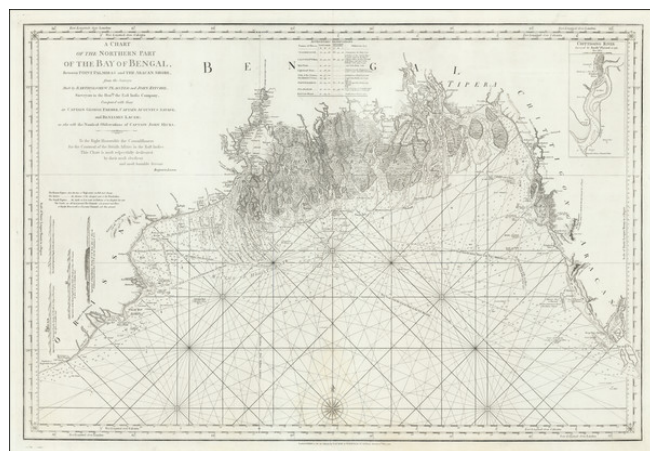
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A Chart of the Northern Part of the Bay of Bengal Between Point Palmiras and the Aracan Shore

Stock#: 94739
Map Maker: Laurie & Whittle
Date: 1794
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 35.5 x 24 inches
Price: \$ 1,200.00



Description:

A Chart of the Northern Part of the Bay of Bengal is a significant Indian chart document borne out of the collaboration of several notable marine surveyors: Bartholomew Plaisted, John Ritchie, Captain George Farmer, Captain Augustus Savage, and Benjamin Lacam. Further enriching this work are the nautical observations contributed by Captain John Hicks. The chart, published by Laurie & Whittle on 12th May 1794, maps the area between Point Palmiras and the Arakan shore, focusing on the intricate nautical topography of this part of the Bay of Bengal.

The chart displays an array of significant geographical and tidal information. Key indicators like the timing of high tide, the direction of the strongest flood tides, and the depth of the bay at low tide are all meticulously plotted. This data, along with precise descriptions of the seabed - the sands being hard ground, the channels as soft ground, and the delineation of the Hoogly River and Lacam's Channel as soft blue ground - combine to form a detailed nautical chart vital for navigation and maritime operations of the era.

The chart presents a wealth of astronomic observations, providing latitudinal and longitudinal readings for several significant locations, such as Chandernagor, Calcutta, Mud Point, Light-house Point, and Point Palmiras. These readings, gathered from a range of observers including the Honorable Thomas Howe, the Rev. M. Smith, M. Magee, and Captain John Ritchie, represent an impressive compilation of astronomic knowledge of the period.

This wealth of geographic information is coupled with significant details about the coastal topography. Coastal profiles of notable locations like the Jagernaut Pagoda and the Black Pagoda are carefully



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delineated. The chart indicates the observable land characteristics when viewed from specific bearings and distances, noting, for instance, the reddish sand characteristic of the shore near these landmarks. These descriptions would have been of significant value to mariners navigating these coasts.

The chart is not only an extraordinary instance of collaboration among several of the era's most renowned marine surveyors but also a testament to the precision and detailed nature of nautical surveying during the late 18th century. It encapsulates the advanced scientific methodologies used in its creation, from astronomical observations to meticulous hydrographic surveying.

As a tool, the chart is a reflection of the naval interests and maritime expansion of the British East India Company and British colonial administration in the late 18th century. The chart's dedication to the Right Honorable Commissioners for the Control of the British Affairs in the East Indies indicates its official endorsement and the significant role it played in the administrative and commercial activities of the British in the region.

In a broader historical context, the chart represents the meeting of scientific observation, commercial interests, and colonial expansion. The thorough detailing of the northern part of the Bay of Bengal underlines the significance of this region for the East India Company and the British Empire at large. The chart is thus a direct reflection of Britain's growing control over the Indian subcontinent during this period.

Detailed Condition:

Minor expert restoration at the bottom of the vertical centerfold.