



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

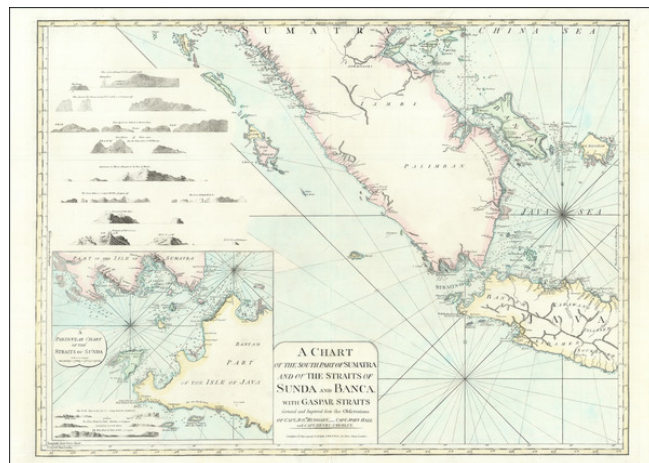
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## **A Chart of the South Part of Sumatra and of the Straits of Sunda and Banca. with Gaspar Straits Corrected and Improved from the Observations of Capt. Jos. H. Huddart \_Capt. John Hall and Capt. Henry S. Smedley . . . 1794**

**Stock#:** 94745  
**Map Maker:** Laurie & Whittle  
**Date:** 1794  
**Place:** London  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 33 x 24 inches  
**Price:** \$ 850.00



### **Description:**

*A Chart of the South Part of Sumatra and of the Straits of Sunda and Banca*, published in 1794 by Laurie & Whittle in London, provides a comprehensive maritime view of southern Sumatra, western Java, and surrounding islands, enhancing its precision with an expansive inset detailing the Straits of Sunda. This chart not only epitomizes the cartographic detail of its era but also underscores the navigational complexities surrounding the islands and straits, evidenced by the intensive soundings, sailing channels, and profile views.

In the late 18th century, the Sunda Strait, a vital waterway separating the islands of Java and Sumatra in present-day Indonesia, held considerable geopolitical significance. The strait formed a critical passage linking the Indian Ocean to the South China Sea, thereby acting as a nexus for east-west maritime trade routes. European colonial powers, especially the British and the Dutch, had burgeoning economic interests in the East Indies, and controlling or accessing the Sunda Strait meant having a strategic advantage in navigation, commerce, and territorial influence. The spice trade, which had propelled European exploration and colonization in the region, was still influential, and the strait became a focal point for maritime endeavors, including trade in spices, textiles, and other valuable commodities. Moreover, the strait's importance was magnified due to its proximity to other strategic passages, like the Straits of Malacca. Consequently, maritime charts of the Sunda Strait, detailing its navigational intricacies, became invaluable assets, reflecting the broader geopolitical contest in the region.

### **Detailed Condition:**