



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

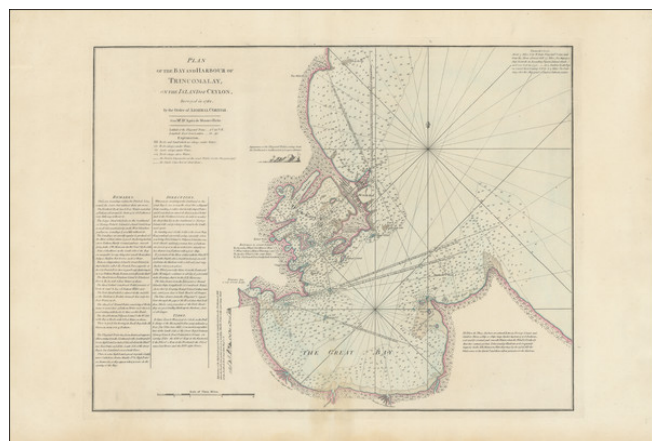
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(Trincomalee, Sri Lanka) Plan of the Bay and Harbour of Trincomalay, on the Island of Ceylon

Stock#: 95484
Map Maker: Laurie & Whittle
Date: 1798 circa
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 27.5 x 21 inches
Price: \$ 750.00



Description:

Plan of the Bay and Harbour of Trincomalay, on the Island of Ceylon, executed under the order of Admiral Cornish and sourced from M. D'Apres de Manneville, was finely engraved and disseminated by Laurie & Whittle in London, circa 1798. The map offers a meticulous topographical and bathymetric representation of the bay, illustrating underwater topographies, such as the layout of rocks and sands, alongside important navigational aids for sailors of the era.

Trincomalay, known today as Trincomalee, boasts one of the world's finest natural harbors, and its strategic significance during the late 18th century cannot be overstated. Amidst the geopolitical flux of European powers in Asia, the control and understanding of such pivotal maritime locations were paramount. Trincomalay's portrayal, in a period where Britain's naval power was ascendant, underscores its geopolitical and naval significance during a critical juncture in colonial history.

The map delineates several key features: soundings which provide depth information for safe anchorage, the exact marks for hazards, and directives for navigational strategies. The vivid detail regarding "Double Lines" and "Single Lines" aids in discerning the exact dangers and how to avoid them. These soundings and marks were crucial for the safe navigation and anchoring of vessels, revealing the harbor's complexities and the surrounding bay's unique characteristics.

Among the annotations, the tragic fate of His Majesty's Ship *Diomed*, lost in 1795 after striking the aptly named *Diomed's Rock*, offers a somber testament to the perils of navigating unfamiliar waters, underscoring the value of such comprehensive charts. The map further elucidates optimal anchoring zones, like the area between *Norway Island* and *Sambore River*, where ships could find respite during



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unfavorable wind conditions, specifically during the northeast monsoon.

Within the extensive notations on tides, wind patterns, and navigational cues, the map serves as both a practical guide for mariners and a testament to the scientific rigor of 18th-century cartography. This cartographic artifact encapsulates the naval challenges and geopolitical intrigue of its era, offering profound insights into the maritime history of the Indian Ocean region.

Detailed Condition:

Cleaned stain at the bottom of the centerfold.