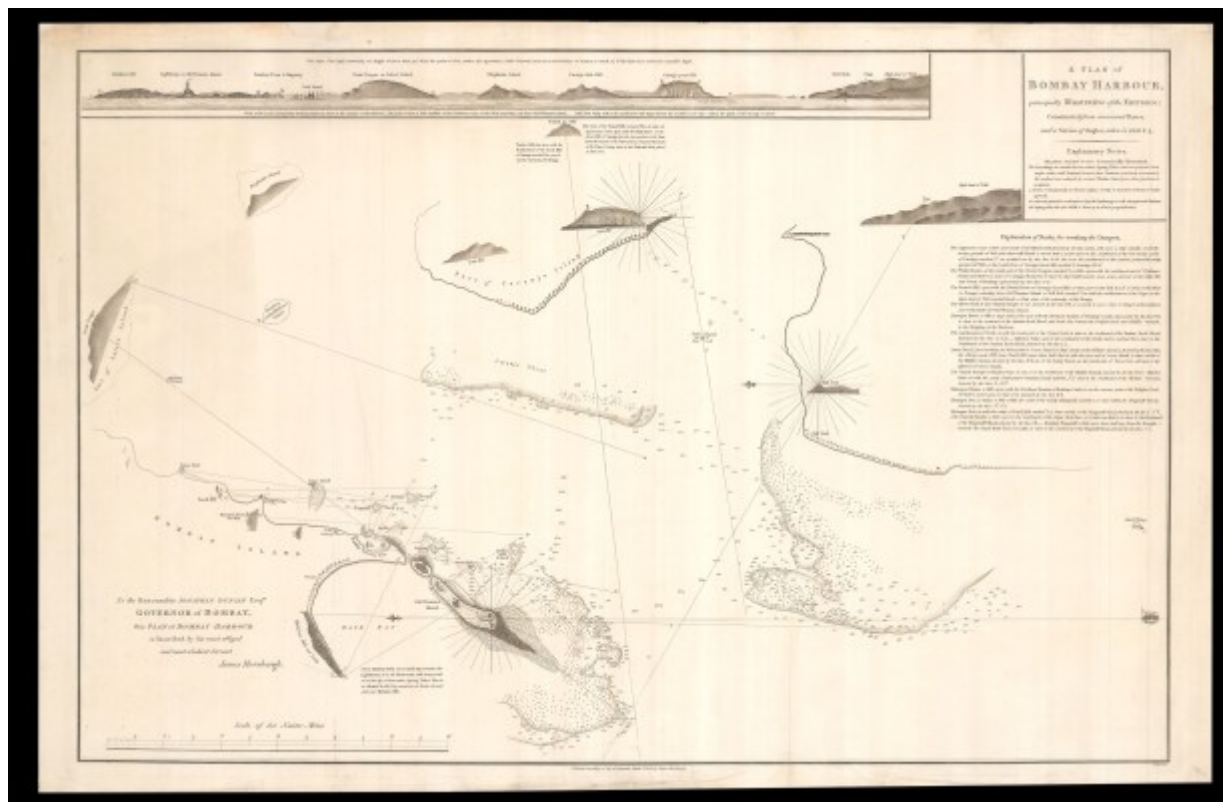




Engraved chart, coastal profiles, remarks below title.

THE MOST ACCURATE CHART OF MUMBAI TO DATE

A Plan of Bombay Harbour Principally Illustrative of the Entrance Constructed from measured Bases, and a Series of Angles, taken in 1803 & 1804

Author

HORSBURGH, James

Publication date

March 5th, 1806.

Publisher

James Horsburgh,

Publication place

London,

Physical description

Engraved chart, coastal profiles, remarks below title.

Dimensions

640 by 965mm (25.25 by 38 inches).

Notes

Rare first edition of Horsburgh's chart of Mumbai, the most accurate chart of Mumbai to date.

The present chart is one of the first to bear Horsburgh's imprint. Having returned from the Far East to London in 1806, he was encouraged by several noblemen, to publish his work independently.

Jonathan Duncan, Governor of Bombay, and to whom the present chart is dedicated, was one such gentleman. The chart is based upon Horsburgh's survey carried out by him in 1803 and 1804.

A key below the title provides information on the sea bed, spring tide rise and fall, and soundings are marked accurately by the measurement taken from 3 stations, "the method now adopted by several Marine Surveyors, when precision is requisite. Below this is an 'Explanation of Marks for avoiding the Dangers'. These include the Lighthouse, The White House, and Magazon House. To the chart the town of Bombay is clearly marked, with Fort St George to the north.

James Horsburgh (1762-1836) hydrographer to the East India Company, the foremost surveyor of Chinese waters of his day, was born and raised in the coastal town of Elie in the county of Fife. At the age of 16 he entered the naval profession as a humble cabin boy. He spent the majority of his formative years out in the Far East. On a return trip to London, in 1786, as first mate of the ship Carron, he made the acquaintance of Alexander Dalrymple, hydrographer to the East India Company and the British Admiralty. So impressed with Horsburgh's work was Dalrymple, that he undertook to publish the charts and sailing directions that he had compiled. Horsburgh would later return to England on a permanent basis in 1805, where he would publish his East India Pilot, a work containing fifteen charts, which he produced between 1806 and 1815, and covered the navigation from England to the China Sea. It was these charts, together with his comprehensive 'Directory for Sailing to the East Indies', that would gain Horsburgh the position of Hydrographer to the East India Company in 1810; a post he would hold until his death in 1836.

Worldcat records only one institutional example: Harvard University Library.

Bibliography

Provenance

Price: £6000

Inventory reference: 23938