



Engraved chart, lighthouses and beacons picked out in yellow and red, small tear to left margin, loss to top margin, skilfully repaired, not affecting image, some staining.

FIJI

Fiji Islands.

Author

HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE; DENHAM, Captain H[enry] M[angles]

Publication date

17th July 1879. Large corrections Sept. 1882, Decr. 1897.

Publisher

Admiralty,

Publication place

London,

Physical description

Engraved chart, lighthouses and beacons picked out in yellow and red, small tear to left margin, loss to top margin, skilfully repaired, not affecting image, some staining.

Dimensions

1000 by 690mm (39.25 by 27.25 inches).

Notes

Detailed British Admiralty chart of the islands of Fiji.

The chart marks soundings, hazards of the sea, magnetic variation, and coastal profiles, with

principal ports and rivers marked.

Captain Henry Mangles Denham (1800-1887) of HMS Herald – mentioned on the chart – spent from 1852 to 1860 charting the eastern seas of Australia and covering the Great Barrier Reef and waters as far as Fiji, he would also be responsible for the third survey of Sydney Harbour in 1857. Denham's survey of Fiji and other Pacific waters were updated by Lieutenants W. U. Moore and G. E. Richards, between 1876 and 1872.

The British Hydrographic Office was founded in 1795 by George III, who appointed Alexander Dalrymple as the first Hydrographer to the Admiralty. The first charts were produced in 1800. Unlike the U. S. Coast Survey the Hydrographic Office was given permission to sell charts to the public and they produced a great number of sea charts covering every corner of the globe. Most of the Admiralty charts produced by the Hydrographic Office delineated coastline as well as high and low water marks and record depth of water as established by soundings. In addition these charts included information on shoals, reefs, and other navigational hazards that plagued mariners across the world. Thanks to the innovations of Sir Francis Beaufort, who developed the Beaufort Scale of wind strength, the British Hydrographic Office became one of the leading producers of sea charts. In fact, such was their accuracy that the phrase 'Safe as an Admiralty Chart' was coined.

Bibliography

Provenance

Price: £950

Inventory reference: 24140