



Engraved chart, lighthouses and beacons picked out in yellow and red, chartseller's stamp bottom-right.

## **THE FORTH OF SOLWAY**

### **The Firth of Solway.**

#### **Author**

HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE; KERR, Staff Commander J[ohn] H[oopers]

#### **Publication date**

28th Decr. 1877. Large corrections Jan. 1881.

#### **Publisher**

Admiralty,

#### **Publication place**

London,

#### **Physical description**

Engraved chart, lighthouses and beacons picked out in yellow and red, chartseller's stamp bottom-right.

#### **Dimensions**

990 by 695mm (39 by 27.25 inches).

#### **Notes**

Detailed British Admiralty chart of the Firth of Solway.

The chart marks soundings, hazards of the sea, and magnetic variation, with principal ports and

rivers marked. The chart bears an inset of the Annan bridge to Carlisle.

The survey was carried out by Staff Commander John Hooper Kerr (1828-1877), who lead important surveys of New Zealand, Chinese, and Canadian waters. In 1871, he was charged with carrying out a new survey of the west coast of England and Scotland.

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:** £100

**Inventory reference:** 24117