

Engraved chart, lighthouses and beacons picked out in yellow and red.

THE GASPAR STRAIT

Gaspar Strait Chiefly from surveys published by the Netherlands Government to 1880.

Author
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Publication date
5th Mar. 1884. Small corrections [to 18]93.

Publisher
Admiralty,

Publication place
London,

Physical description
Engraved chart, lighthouses and beacons picked out in yellow and red.

Dimensions
1015 by 665mm (40 by 26.25 inches).

Notes
Detailed British Admiralty chart of the Gaspar Strait, the body of between the islands of Belitung and Bangka.

The chart marks soundings, hazards of the sea, magnetic variation, and coastal profiles, with principal ports and rivers marked.

The chart is principally based on Dutch surveys of the waters, carried out up to 1880. The Netherlands at the time was the major colonial power in the region, controlling much of modern day Indonesia.

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: £250

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