

Lithograph map printed in colours, dissected and mounted on linen, ownership inscription “Property of V. J. Atkins”.

THE NEW TERRITORIES

A Map of Hong Kong and New Leased Territory.

Author
[SCHOOL OF MILITARY ENGINEERING, CHATHAM]

Publication date
c1930].

Publisher
School of Military Engineering,

Publication place
[Chatham,

Physical description
Lithograph map printed in colours, dissected and mounted on linen, ownership inscription “Property of V. J. Atkins”.

Dimensions
785 by 1065mm. (31 by 42 inches).

Notes
This map of Hong Kong and the New Territories is one of the earliest maps to show the topography of Lantau Island and adjacent islands in detail. Hills are shown with contours and hachure shading, with heights given in feet, and villages are named. Cheung Chau, called “Chung Island”, is detailed,

but Lamma appears to have been only partially surveyed. The “Mouth of the Canton (or Pearl) River” runs along the left margin. Mountains of interest include Lin tau (Lantau) Peak at 3064 feet, Victoria Peak at 1774 feet, Ma On Shan at 2261 feet, and Tai Mo Shan at 3130 feet. Part of the new, single-track Kowloon Canton Railway (which opened in 1910) is depicted between Tsim Sha Tsui and Sham Chun (Sum Chun).

A later edition of the New Territories map, first published around 1910 by the British School of Military Engineering in Chatham.
Whereas the previous iterations of the map showed hachure and and contour lines, the present edition is produced without contour lines, though curiously the heights of peaks and contours have been kept. Also marked are roads, railways, and major built up areas. However, the most prominent buildings highlighted are the police stations of the New territories.

This map is an early example of the topographical maps of areas of British political and commercial interest compiled by the Geographical Section, General Staff of the War Office throughout the twentieth century.

V. J. Atkins was on a passenger list for the ‘S.S. Macedonia’ leaving Hong Kong on the 7th May 1926, published in the ‘Malaya Tribune’. Atkins worked for the Asiatic Petroleum Company during the 1920s and 1930s.

Bibliography

Provenance

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