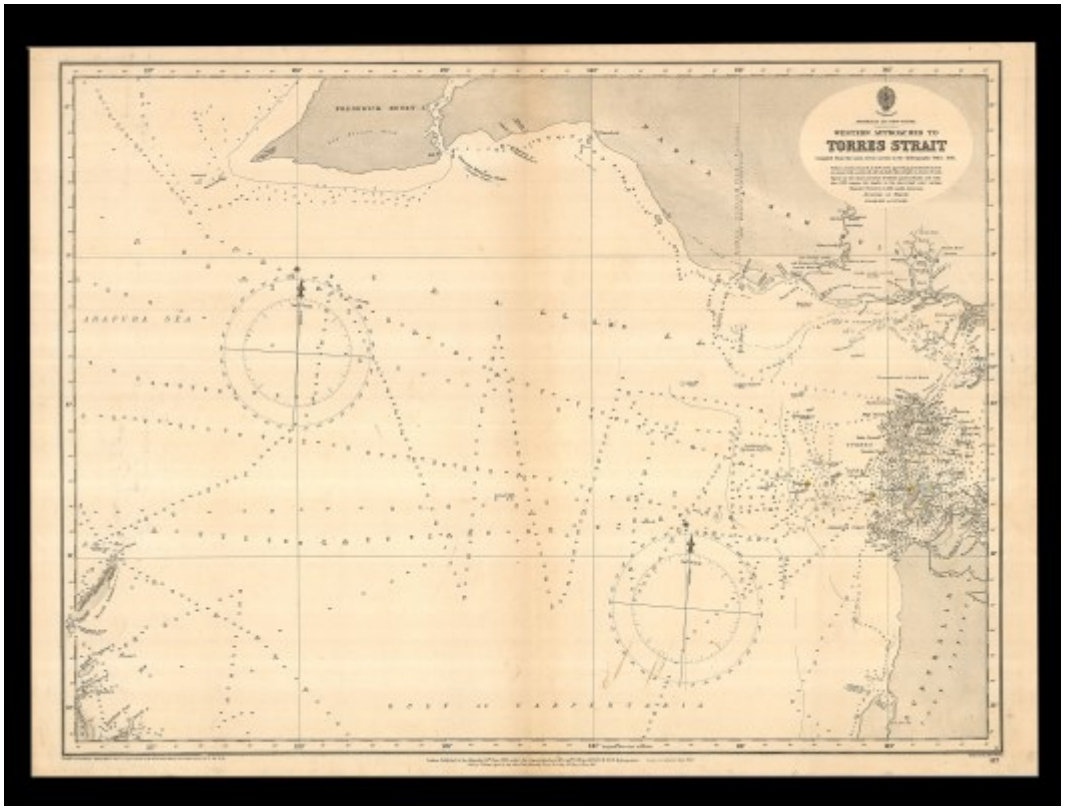


Engraved chart, lighthouses and beacons picked out in yellow and red, manuscript diagram to verso.

WESTERN APPROACHES TO THE TORRES STRAIT, AUSTRALIA

Western Approaches to Torres Strait Compiled from the most recent surveys in the Hydrographic Office 1881.

Author
HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE

Publication date
15th June 1881. Large corrections May 1882.

Publisher
Admiralty,

Publication place
London,

Physical description
Engraved chart, lighthouses and beacons picked out in yellow and red, manuscript diagram to verso.

Dimensions
500 by 690mm (19.75 by 27.25 inches).

Notes
Detailed British Admiralty chart the western approaches to the Torres Strait, Australia.

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

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: £450

Inventory reference: 24122

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