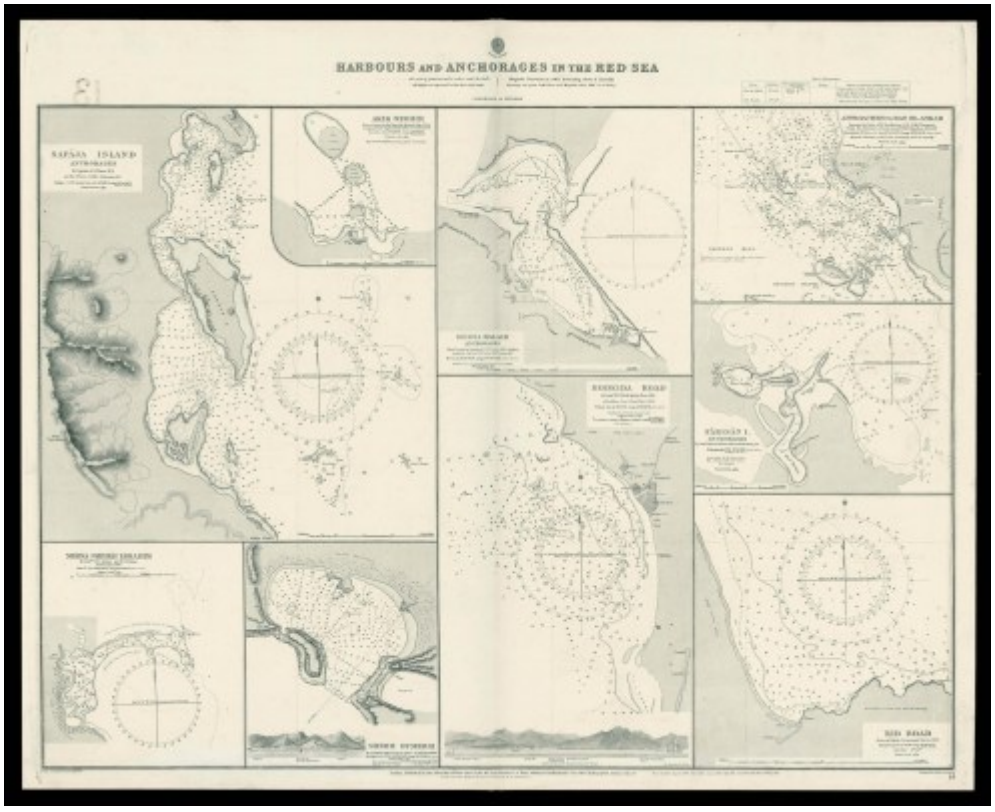

Nine engraved charts on one map sheet, detailing anchorages at Safaja Island, Akik Seghir, Mersa Halaib, Mersa Sheikh Ibrahim, Sherm Dumeigh, Hodeida Road, Approaches to Ras El Askar, Farisan I., and Eid Road, including tidal information, compass roses, soundings, seabed notations, currents, sandbanks, shoals, lighthouses and beacons, inland elevations, detailing and buildings.

ADMIRALTY CHART OF THE HARBOUR'S AND ANCHORAGES IN THE RED SEA

Harbours & Anchorages in the Red Sea

Author
HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE

Publication date
11th June 1873. New editions to 1918. Small corrections to 1919.

Publisher
Published at the Admiralty,

Publication place
London,

Physical description
Nine engraved charts on one map sheet, detailing anchorages at Safaja Island, Akik Seghir, Mersa Halaib, Mersa Sheikh Ibrahim, Sherm Dumeigh, Hodeida Road, Approaches to Ras El Askar, Farisan I., and Eid Road, including tidal information, compass roses, soundings, seabed notations, currents, sandbanks, shoals, lighthouses and beacons, inland elevations, detailing and buildings.

Dimensions

690 by 860mm. (27.25 by 33.75 inches).

Notes
Detailed chart of the harbours and anchorages in the Red Sea.

When the Suez Canal opened in 1869, the Red Sea began to experience a significant increase in the traffic, especially from the British shipping plying their trade between England and the India. The chart must have greatly aided their passage with its detailed depiction of nine safe harbours and archorages.

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: £700

Inventory reference: 1405

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