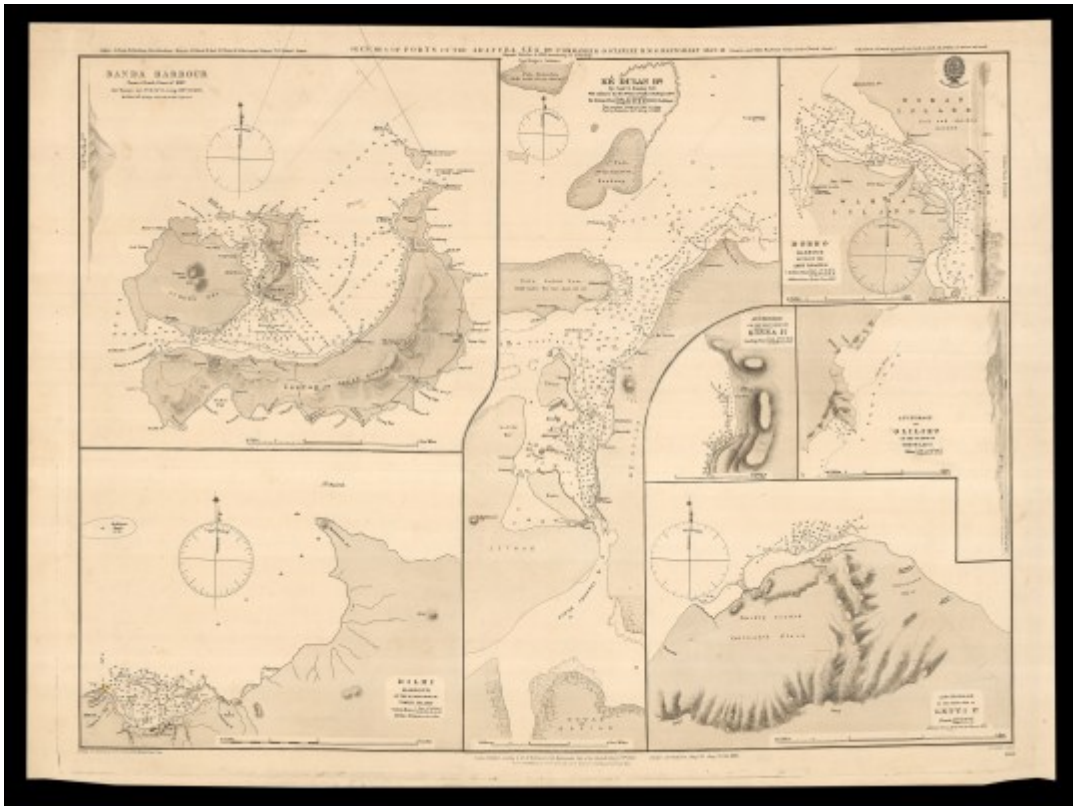


Engraved chart.

AUSTRALIA – PORTS IN THE ARAFURA SEA, AUSTRALIA

Sketches of Ports in the Arafura Sea.

Author
HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE; STANLEY, Captain O[wen]

Publication date
March 29th 1843. Large corrections Aug. 76, Aug. 79, Oct. 1888.

Publisher
Hydrographic Office of the Admiralty,

Publication place
London,

Physical description
Engraved chart.

Dimensions
500 by 670mm (19.75 by 26.5 inches).

Notes
Detailed British Admiralty chart of the Sea of Arafura, the stretch of water between New Guinea, and North Australia

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

The survey was carried out by the talented hydrographer Captain Owen Stanley, in 1843. HMS Britomart was his first major command, and his first time in Australian waters. He would later command HMS Rattlesnake, which led an important surveying and scientific mission to New Guinea, with the scientists Thomas Huxley and John MacGillivary.

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: £150

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