

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

THE BANGKA STRAIT

Banka Strait.

Author
HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE

Publication date
4th June 1858. Large corrections Oct. 68, Nov.r 70, Feb 1885.

Publisher
Admiralty,

Publication place
London,

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

Dimensions
1000 by 660mm. (39.25 by 26 inches).

Notes
Detailed British Admiralty chart of the Bangka Strait, the body of water that separates Sumatra from the island of Bangka.

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

The chart is principally based on Dutch surveys of the waters. The Netherlands at the time was the major colonial power in the region, controlling much of modern day Indonesia. However, the chart mentions also the surveys of Staff Commander W. Stanton snd J. W. Reed in 1860 to 1861.

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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