Engraved chart, printed in black and red, lighthouses and beacons picked out in yellow and red, chartseller’s label pasted bottom-right, chartseller’s stamp bottom-left, small amount of loss to left and right margins, not affecting image, minor staining.

THE SOUTH ADRIATIC

Carte de la Mer Adriatique.

Author
DÉPÔT-GÉNÉRAL DE LA MARINE

Publication date
1850. Corrigé en 1859.

Publisher
Dépôt-Général de la Marine,

Publication place
[Paris],

Physical description
Engraved chart, printed in black and red, lighthouses and beacons picked out in yellow and red, chartseller’s label pasted bottom-right, chartseller’s stamp bottom-left, small amount of loss to left and right margins, not affecting image, minor staining.

Dimensions
990 by 660mm (39 by 26 inches).

Notes
A French chart of the South Adriatic Sea.

The chart marks soundings, hazards of the sea, and magnetic variation, and principal ports and rivers marked. Arcs around the coastline indicate the distance from which the beam of a lighthouse can be seen.

The chart bears the stamp and label of the Fillastre Frères, chart sellers active in Bordeaux during the nineteenth cnetury.

The Dépôt de la Marine, known more formally as the Dépôt des cartes et plans de la Marine, was the central charting institution of France. The centralization of hydrography in France began in earnest when Jean-Baptiste Colbert became First Minister of France in 1661. Under his watch, the first Royal School of Hydrography began operating, as did the first survey of France's coasts (1670-1689). In 1680, Colbert consolidated various collections of charts and memoirs into a single assemblage, forming the core of sources for what would become the Dépôt.

The Dépôt itself began as the central deposit of charts for the French Navy. In 1720, the Navy consolidated its collection with those government materials covering the colonies, creating a single large repository of navigation. By 1737, the Dépôt was creating its own original charts and, from 1750, they participated in scientific expeditions to determine the accurate calculation of longitude.

In 1773, the Dépôt received a monopoly over the composition, production, and distribution of navigational materials, solidifying their place as the main producer of geographic knowledge in France. Dépôt-approved charts were distributed to official warehouses in port cities and sold by authorized merchants. The charts were of the highest quality, as many of France's premier mapmakers worked at the Dépôt in the eighteenth century, including Philippe Bauche, Jacques-Nicolas Bellin, Rigobert Bonne, Jean Nicolas Buache, and Charles-François Beautemps-Beaupré.

The Dépôt continued to operate until 1886, when it became the Naval Hydrographic Service. In 1971, it changed names again, this time to the Naval and Oceanographic Service (SHOM). Although its name has changed, its purpose is largely the same, to provide high quality cartographic and scientific information to the France's Navy and merchant marine.

Bibliography

Provenance

Price: £250

Inventory reference: 24149

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