

Engraved chart, manuscript annotations, a few small holes, some staining.

TORRES STRAIT, AUSTRALIA

Torres Strait North East and East Entrances with the Outlying Reefs.

Author
HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE; BLACKWOOD, Captain F[rancis] P[rice]

Publication date
20th Feby. 1856. Large corrections Aug. 72, Apr. 74, May 1893.

Publisher
Admiralty,

Publication place
London,

Physical description
Engraved chart, manuscript annotations, a few small holes, some staining.

Dimensions
665 by 990mm (26.25 by 39 inches).

Notes
Detailed British Admiralty chart the Torres Strait, Australia.

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

Captain Francis Price Blackwood (1809-1854), a talented hydrographer, spent much of his naval career in Australian waters, aboard HMS Fly; on which he surveyed numerous islands off Australia's east coast, including the Great Barrier Reef.

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: £500

Inventory reference: 24121

© Daniel Crouch Rare Books Ltd | 2025