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Eastern Approaches to Singapore . . . From Admiralty Surveys to 1923 . . .

Stock#: 36107
Map Maker: British Admiralty
Date: 1931
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 40 x 28 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

A fine large-scale sea chart of the eastern approaches to Singapore Harbour, issued in 1931 by the British Admiralty.

This important chart extends from the Central Business District of Singapore, and extends along the East Shore to Tanah Merah. Further south, it embraces the Singapore Roads, then as now, one of the world's busiest shipping lanes, and the upper reaches of Indonesia's Riau Archipelago (Batam Island is located in the far lower right). On the far left side of the map is the entrance to Keppel Harbour, home to the massive 'Empire Dock', indicative of the fact that Singapore was then the largest base of the Royal Navy in Asia, and along with Hong Kong, Shanghai and Yokahama, one of the leading maritime hubs of Asia.



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The chart was viewed as the authoritative navigational pilot for the eastern approaches to the city, and includes unnumberable bathymetric soundings, markings of hazards and magnetic variation. At the time, Singapore recorded 560,000 inhabitants and was one of the fastest growing cities in the British Empire, and the capital of the Straits Settlements, Britain's colonial holdings in the Malay Peninsula. The city center is located in the upper left of the map, and while much land reclamation had already taken place, the urban area was still very much concentrated on the Singapore River. The construction of the Marina District was still far in the future, so that Raffles Place and its Georgian revival buildings occupied a position near the river's mouth, right on the harbour's shoreline.

The present example is exceptional, in that it survives in very fine condition, as most charts of this kind suffered due to heavy use at sea.

Detailed Condition: