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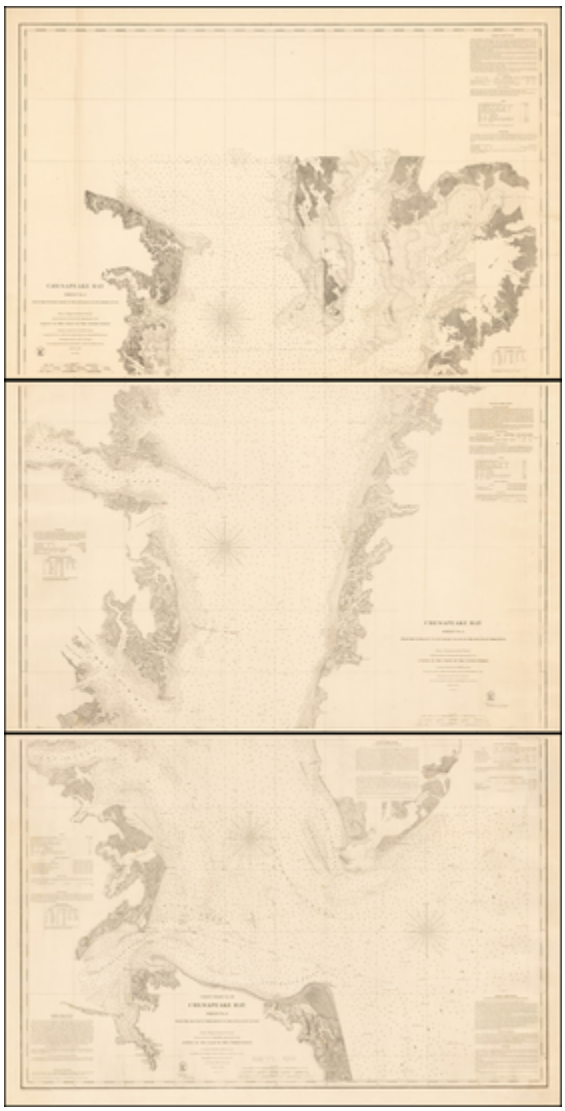
Chesapeake Bay Sheet No. 4 [with:] Sheet No. 5 [with:] Sheet No. 6

Stock#: 35886mb
Map Maker: United States Coast Survey

Date: 1848
Place: Washington
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 37.5 x 25 inches each

Price: SOLD



Description:

A huge--and hugely informative set of charts of Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, in a rarely-found issue on heavy chart paper.

The set, comprising Charts 4, 5 and 6 of a 6-sheet set, depicts the lower part of Chesapeake Bay as far north as the entrance to the Potomac. A trove of information, the charts include immensely detailed soundings; navigational hazards; navigational aids such as lighthouses and light ships; and sailing

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directions. Also provided is detailed topographical and cartographical information on the adjacent coastal regions.

This set is remarkable for having been printed on heavy paper, clearly intended as a working charts. Most examples of these and other Coast Survey charts that appear on the market were printed on very thin stock, folded, and trimmed for binding into government documents. The excellent condition of this set suggests that it never made it to sea.

The Office of the Coast Survey is the oldest scientific organization in the Federal Government. It dates to 1807, when President Jefferson established it for the purpose of fostering maritime commerce. The website of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) offers this tribute:

These men and women (the Coast Survey hired women professionals as early as 1845) helped push back the limits of astronomic measures, designed new and more accurate observational instruments for sea and land surveying, developed new techniques for the mathematical analysis of the mountains of data obtained by the field parties, and further refined techniques of error analysis and mitigation. It was the Coast Survey that led American science away from the older descriptive methods to the modern methods of statistical analysis and the prediction of future states of natural phenomena based on mathematical modeling. Virtually all branches of science, including the social and biological sciences, have adapted similar methodologies and similar techniques in their quest for scientific truth. But, in the United States, it should be remembered that it was the Coast Survey that first trod that path.

Each Coast Survey chart represented an immense undertaking. For example, these charts of the Chesapeake present data gathered beginning in 1843 by separate parties focusing on terrestrial topography, triangulation, hydrography, and astronomical and magnetic observations. Their work was overseen by Edmund Blunt Jr., son of the famed New York chart publisher and First Assistant to Coast Survey Superintendent A.D. Bache. More than a dozen contributors are given credit on the charts, a figure including neither the many lower-ranking members of the survey parties, nor the assistant engravers, printers, etc.

Detailed Condition:
Several repairs, mainly along with margins, some going into the image