



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

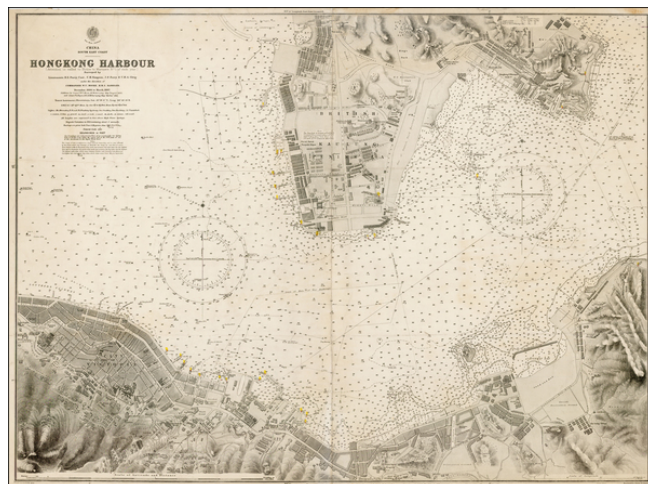
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Hongkong Harbour . . . Surveyed by Lieutenants H.H. Purey-Cust, C.H. Simpson, J.F. Parry & C.H.A. Gleig under the Direction of Commander W.U. Moore. H.M.S. Rambler. December 1886 to March 1887

Stock#: 36196
Map Maker: British Admiralty
Date: 1912
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 39 x 26 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

A rare large-scale sea chart of Hong Kong's Inner Harbour, issued by the British Admiralty, including highly detailed plans of Victoria (Central) and Kowloon.

The chart embraces the northern shore of Hong Kong Island, running from Victoria to Causeway Bay, and extends northwards across the Inner Harbour to include much of Kowloon (noted on the map as the 'Kaulung Peninsula'). The mapping of the urban areas are very detailed, labeling every street and showing the outline of all major buildings and facilities.

In Victoria we see the outlines of numerous important public buildings, including Government House, City Hall and the Murray Barracks, as well as the great private mansions that graced the mid levels above the town. Victoria Peak is shown to rise majestically above the city. Immediately to the east of Victoria, beyond the Cricket Ground, is the Royal Navy Yard, the headquarters of the British navy in East Asia. The waters before the yard are reserved for the 'Man of War Anchorage', for the navy's new steam-powered dreadnought destroyers. Further east, Wanchai is shown to be in a relatively early stage of urban development, while Causeway Bay is an industrialized area dominated by a large sugar refinery.

To the north, across the harbour on the mainland, is Kowloon which is shown to be only partially urbanized and is almost entirely dedicated to port facilities and associated industrial installations. The shoreline feature numerous large piers backed by warehouses. On the eastern side are the lands reserved for the Kaulung & Canton Railway, and further on is the massive Hong Kong & Whampoa Docks, the



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maritime center of Hong Kong's greatest industrial concern. Notably the Kowloon Peninsula is noted to be "British", as when this chart was originally made, the peninsula was still a small British enclave clinging to the mainland. While China had ceded Kowloon to British Hong Kong in 1860, the New Territories would not be ceded until 1898.

The chart was highly important during its time as the authoritative maritime pilot for Hong Kong's Inner Harbour, one of Asia's busiest commercial ports. This chart was originally issued in 1888, based on surveys done under the direction of Commander William Moore of the *HMS Rambler*. It includes vast amounts of nautical information, including innumerable bathymetric soundings, the locations of hazards and shoals, magnetic variation and specific anchorage areas. Beacons are heightened on the chart in yellow.

Owing to extensive use at sea the survival rate of such charts is extremely low. The present chart is scarce on the market, this being the first example we have offered.

Detailed Condition:

Minor soiling, but overall very fine.