



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
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**England South East Coast -- The Downs . . . Compiled From The Latest Information In
The Hydrographic Department . . .**

Stock#: 38719
Map Maker: British Admiralty
Date: 1898 (1917)
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 25.5 x 46 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Highly detailed working sea chart, illustrating the region from Dover Harbor in the south to Margate Sand, published by the British Admiralty.

Includes sailing directions, profile views (including several lighthouses) and other details. Formerly the property of Coode Matthews, Fitzmaurice & Wilson of 9 Victoria Street, in London. In the late 19th and



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early 20th century, Coode Matthews was the engineering firm which had charge of the harbor at Dover, along with the harbors at Colombo and Singapore and were consulting engineers to the Colonial Crown Agents for a number of other British Colonial harbors.

The Downs are a roadstead or area of sea in the southern North Sea near the English Channel off the east Kent coast, between the North and the South Foreland in southern England. In 1639, the Battle of the Downs took place here, when the Dutch navy destroyed a Spanish fleet which had sought refuge in neutral English waters. From Elizabethan times, the presence of Downs helped to make Deal one of the premier ports in England and in the 19th century, it was equipped with its own telegraph and timeball tower to enable ships to set their marine chronometers.

The Downs served in the age of sail as a permanent base for warships patrolling the North Sea and a gathering point for refitting of newly built ships coming out of Chatham Dockyard, such as the HMS Bellerophon. It formed a safe anchorage during heavy weather, protected on the east by the Goodwin Sands and on the north and west by the coast. The Downs also lie between the Strait of Dover and the Thames Estuary, so both merchant ships awaiting an easterly wind to take them into the English Channel and those going up to London gathered there, often for quite long periods. According to the Deal Maritime Museum and other sources, there are records of as many as 800 sailing ships at anchor at one time.

Detailed Condition:

Working Chart.