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(Magellan Strait) Trinidad Channel Surveyed by Sir George Nares K.C.B., F.R.S. and J.P. MacLear . . . H.M.S. Alert 1879

Stock#: 67834
Map Maker: British Admiralty
Date: 1881 (updates to 1920)
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 38.5 x 26 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Detailed British Admiralty chart of a western section of the Strait of Magellan, illustrating the Trinidad Channel.

The following report appeared in surveys of the Admiralty for 1879:

On the western coast of South America, H.M.S. Alert, with an efficient staff of surveyors in the early part of the year under Sir George Nares, and subsequently under Captain Maclear has been employed on arduous service, chiefly in a critical examination of the ship channels adjacent to the 50th parallel of latitude. Trinidad Channel directly opening into the Pacific Ocean with Concepcion Channel leading from the inner waters north of Magellan Strait into Trinidad Channel, have all been surveyed, together with their numerous ports and temporary anchorages likely to be useful to passing shipping. Inocentes Channel, leading to Concepcion Channel from the now well-known Guia Narrows, has also been examined and charted.

Trinidad Channel opens out a clear passage to the Pacific Ocean 160 miles to the north of Magellan Strait; and although not so secure of approach from the Pacific as the well-known entrance into the strait by Cape Pillar and the Evangelists, it will be found a valuable addition to our knowledge of these waters, as enabling ships passing into the Pacific to avoid the heavy sea frequently experienced in the higher south latitude. Similar in feature to Magellan Strait, the ocean entrance of Trinidad Channel is shoal, having only 40 fathoms water in the deepest part, the depths gradually increasing to 300 fathoms in the inner channels. The



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southern shores are bounded by bold, rugged mountains, rising abruptly from the sea; whilst on the northern side a low wooded country lies between the sea and the rugged spurs of distant snow-clad mountains: both shores are cut up into numerous bays and inlets. In the later months of the year very few natives were seen; it is understood that at this season the Fuegians leave the inner waters for the outer seaboard, in pursuit of seals.

During the winter months, the Alert, having refitted at Coquimbo, then visited St. Felix and St. Ambrose islands, and obtained a series of ocean soundings in an area unexplored by the Challenger in 1875. These islands appear to be unconnected with the South American continent, for soundings obtained midway gave a depth of 2250 fathoms (rad. ooze), with a bottom temperature of 33 5 F., both depth and temperature thus corresponding to the general bed of the South Pacific Ocean. Neither do they join the Juan Fernandez group, for the depths between reached 2000 fathoms. These several scattered islands thus appear to rise from a submarine-plateau as isolated mountains. Captain Maclear describes St. Ambrose Island as volcanic, composed entirely of lava arranged in horizontal strata very marked, intersected vertically by dykes of basalt: vegetation is scant, and the island is without water: though frequented by sea birds, the sides are too steep and rugged for guano to collect.

Detailed Condition: