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Port of Valdivia and Approaches

Stock#: 68220
Map Maker: British Admiralty
Date: 1882 (1913)
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 25.7 x 19 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

This is a detailed navigational chart of the Port of Valdivia, in Southern Chile. The map extends inland along the many inlets and tributaries of the region, stretching to the city of Valdivia along its eponymous river. Navigational detail on the map is extensive, showing many soundings, shoals, reefs, channels, banks, and much more. An inset map shows Port Coral, at the mouth of the inlet, in increased detail.

Additional notes add a level of interest to the chart. A note near Coral states that, due to the "great changes in the Banks in the entrance to the Rivers, this chart cannot be relied upon." This is an insightful observation, showing that navigators of the 19th century already had a good grasp of the temporary nature of sediments in areas subject to tides and rivers. Large scale changes in the region can already be seen by comparing the map to satellite photos today: the branch of the Valdivia surrounding San Francisco Island has deepened and widened considerably in just one hundred and twenty years. Human changes to the present day layout of the area are also visible, with some of the small settlements that appear along with the many inlets of the region no longer existing.

Valdivia is truly a city at the end of the world. Once the southernmost outpost of the Spanish Empire, this city went through several hands, including those of Peru and the Netherlands. Charles Darwin visited the island during his voyages on the *Beagle* half a century before the creation of this map. The city rapidly during the 19th and early 20th centuries, though the Great Chilean earthquake of 1960 heavily affected the region. In the present map, Valdivia is shown as a small village with only a few streets; it now houses one hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants.

As with all British Admiralty charts, this map provides a wealth of information while preserving a simple



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and attractive design.

Detailed Condition:

Some minor toning and wear along margins.