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Singapore Road Surveyed By J.W. Reed, Master Comanding . . 1864 . . . 1891

Stock#: 36090
Map Maker: British Admiralty
Date: 1892
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 40 x 28 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

A fine large-scale chart of Singapore Harbour, issued in 1892, depicting the city just before a period of dramatic growth.

This important chart focuses on what is now downtown Singapore and the immediate approaches to the Singapore River and the Docklands at Keppel Harbour. The chart shows a detailed plan of the City, along with extensive soundings, shoals, topographical details and contiguous islands. The urbanized zone was then limited to relatively small areas on both sides of the mouth of the Singapore River, congregated around what is now the Central Business District, and then extending across towards what is now Rochor.

What is today Raffles Place is shown to be immediately on the shoreline of the Harbor at the mouth of the



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river, while Orchard Road was a country lane running past various farms and plantations (Emerald Hill is shown to be well outside of the town). While the entire island then had only about 185,000 inhabitants, Singapore already possessed outside importance as the primary base of the Royal Navy in East Asia and the capital of the Straits Settlements, Britain's colonial holdings on the Malay Peninsula. It was also a major commerical port, handling upwards of 2 million tons of goods annually.

Evident on the map are the beginnings of major infrastructure programs that would foster a dramatic expansion in Singapore's economy, and population. Shown leading into the city from the north is the newly-built Singapore Government Railway, which was connected the city to the Malay Peninsula (via ferry to Johor). As indicated, the line would shortly be extended to reach Tanjong Pagar and the docklands at Keppel. Also evident are the first of many land reclamation projects which would greatly expand the acreage of both downtown and the harbour district. The Telok Ayer Reclamation is shown to add land to the downtown area, while Tanjong Pagar Land Company (TPL Co.) has already commenced what would be a massive extension of the docklands.

This chart would have been quite important during its time as the definitive pilot chart for guiding ships into Singapore Harbor. The present example is exceptional, in that it survives in very fine condition, as most charts of this kind suffered due to heavy use at sea. It is also a fascinating record of the city's development during the late Victorian era.

Detailed Condition: