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Australia-East Coast New South Wales -- Port Stephens By Commander F.W. Sidney R.N. 1866. The part West of Soldier Pt. is enlarged from the Survey of Captn. P.P. King R.N. 1845. . .

Stock#: 38769
Map Maker: British Admiralty
Date: 1869 (1903)
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 25.5 x 46 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Highly detailed working sea chart of Port Stephens, New South Wales, published by the British Admiralty.

Includes two large profile views, sailing directions, (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 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.

Port Stephens was named by Captain James Cook when he passed it on May 11, 1770. The port is named for Sir Philip Stephens, who was then Secretary to the British Admiralty. Stephens was a personal friend of Cook and had recommended him for command of the voyage. It seems Cook's initial choice had actually been Point Keppel and Keppel Bay but instead he used Keppel Bay later.

The first ship to enter the port was the Salamander, a ship of the Third Fleet that later gave the suburb of Salamander Bay its name, in 1791. In that same year escaped convicts, then known as 'bolters', discovered coal in the area. In 1795 the crew of the *HMS Providence* discovered a group of escaped convicts, living with the Worimi people. Port Stephens became a popular haven for escaped convicts and so in 1820 a garrison of soldiers was established at what is now known as Soldiers Point.

In 1920 there was a push for Port Stephens to be the capital city of a new state in a proposal originating from the country newspaper, *The Daily Observer*. The proposal was the *Observer's* editor Victor Charles Thompson's idea, in response to continuing rural Australian antipathy at the Sydney-centralized funding



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and governance, that many rural newspapers claimed had neglected to aid rural Australian towns.

Detailed Condition:

Working sea chart, with pencil annotations. Several minor repaired tears and fold split at lower fold, expertly repaired on verso. Some fraying and chipping in the bottom margin.