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[Christchurch] Ports Lyttelton (Tewhaka) and Levy (Koko-Rarat) and Pigeon (Wakaroa) Survey By Captain J.L. Stokes R.N. 1849

Stock#: 39074
Map Maker: British Admiralty
Date: 1850 (1865)
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 24 x 18.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Finely executed chart showing Port Lyttelton and environs, extending north to Christchurch.

The chart extends the area from north of the Avon and Heathcote Estuary down to beyond Pigeon Bay, showing the soundings in fathoms from the Estuary outlet to the entrance of Port Levy, and Pigeon Bay. The chart provides fine hydrographical and topographical details, including soundings, the location of the lighthouse at Godley Head, and a note that the Lyttelton Hr. Commn. recommended a location for a breakwater and Beacon in 1863.

The primary surveyor for the chart, John Lort Stokes, gained his initial acclaim as an officer in the Royal Navy who travelled on *HMS Beagle* for 18 years. Following the second voyage of the *Beagle*, Stokes was promoted to lieutenant, and served under Commander John Clements Wickham for a survey of Australasian waters. When Wickham was invalided in 1841, Stokes took command of the ship. While Stokes was in command the *Beagle* surveyed Timor and New Zealand. When he returned he wrote *Discoveries in Australia, with an account of the coasts and rivers explored and surveyed during the voyage of the Beagle, 1837-1843*.

In July 1846, Stokes was promoted to captain and commanded the *Acheron*, surveying New Zealand for four years. From 1860 to 1863 he commanded the ship *HMS Rose* surveying the coasts of the English Channel. He retired in 1863, was promoted to the rank of rear admiral in 1863, vice-admiral in 1871 and admiral in 1877.



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Survey By Captain J.L. Stokes R.N. 1849**

The survey work by Stokes was completed at the same time as the work of Joseph Thomas, the chief surveyor for Lyttelton, Sumner, and Christchurch, on behalf of the Canterbury Association, who arrived in New Zealand in November 1848, with his chief purpose being to find a suitable place for a proposed settlement, which would become Christchurch (located on this map).

Detailed Condition:

Minor soiling and some pencil notes.