



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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Singapore Keppel Harbour (New) Surveyed By Commander A. Mostyn Field, R.N. . . . 1891

Stock#: 64417
Map Maker: British Admiralty
Date: 1893 (1900)
Place: Singapore
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 39 x 26 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The First Map To Name Keppel Harbor

Rare and important large scale hydrographic chart of Singapore's Keppel Harbor, based on the original surveys made under the direction of Commander Arthur Mostyn Field R N, September to October 1891, with the revised name of "Keppel Harbour" in honor of Henry Keppel in April 1900.

Keppel Harbor was named after Captain Henry Keppel, who surveyed what was then called the new harbor of Singapore. The New Harbor was largely created under his planning and completed in 1886. The harbor was originally simply known as New Harbor, but would be renamed Keppel Harbor by Sir James Alexander Swettenham, on April 19, 1900 when Admiral Keppel visited Singapore at the age of 92. Apparently, the decision to rename the harbor was not unanimously received, as is evidenced Reid's article entitled *His Honour's folly : extracts from the "Straits Times," criticising Sir A. Swettenham's action in renaming the new harbour, Singapore, "Keppel Harbour."* Singapore, *Straits Times*, 1900.

The chart extends from Keppel Harbour Singapore, to Brani Island and Sentosa and was first updated in 1893, apparently with the addition of the Keppel name for the first time.

The map pre-dates the conversion of antiquated wooden wharfs along Keppel Harbor into a modern deep-water container port, with granite docks and piers and automatic loading cranes. This massive development, which would continually be in process until World War II, would be the most important single project in Singapore's history, exponentially raising the harbor's tonnage capacity, ultimately making Singapore by far the leading port in Southeast Asia.



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The Tanjong Pagar Dock Company's Wharves are shown, with the coal sheds immediately to the north, predating the creation of the Empire Dock. The T.P.L Co. Reclamation project is also shown, an area which would be dredged over the coming decades and would later house the Royal Singapore Yacht Club..

Tanjong Pagar Dock Company

The Tanjong Pagar Dock Company, (1864-1905), the forerunner of today's Port of Singapore Authority, was founded by Guthrie and Company and Tan Kim Ching. The company was expropriated by the Government in 1905 who replaced it with the Tanjong Pagar Dock Board. In 1907 works were carried for the extension of Tank Road-Kranji Railway between Keppel Harbor and the town center, the Telok Ayer reclamation and the construction of the Offshore Mole, a granite-rubble breakwater, which created a second entrance to Singapore Harbour.

Admiral Sir Arthur Mostyn Field KCB FRS FRGS FRAS (1855-1950)

Mostyn enlisted in 1868 as a cadet in the Royal Navy, where he joined the training ship *HMS Britannia*. After two years basic training he was appointed in succession to *HMS Trafalgar* and *HMS Narcissus* as a midshipman.

Mostyn was promoted lieutenant in 1875 and in the following year was posted to the newly converted survey ship, *HMS Fawn*, spending the next four years in the Red Sea, the Mediterranean and the east coast of Africa, followed by a survey mission to the Oil Rivers of West Africa. In 1882 he went in *HMS Sylvia* to survey the Straits of Magellan. He was promoted commander in 1889 and served from 1890 to 1894 on *HMS Egeria* around Borneo. He was made captain in 1895, and given command of *HMS Penguin* to survey islands in the south west Pacific (1896-99).

He was appointed Hydrographer of the Navy in 1904 and elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1905 as a "distinguished hydrographic surveyor". His application citation referred to "Marine Surveys in command of HM Ships from 1886 to 1904 in Australia, Pacific Islands, China Seas, and British Islands." and said he had done much for the scientific explorations of the deep oceans. He was appointed rear admiral in 1906, vice admiral in 1910 and placed on the retired list later that year. He was made Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath in the 1911 Coronation Honors and advanced to the rank of admiral on the Retired List in 1913.

Rarity

This chart is very rare on the market. This is the first example we have ever offered for sale.



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Detailed Condition: