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Marine Cartography in Britain

A History of the Sea Chart to 1855

by

A. H. W. ROBINSON

Lecturer in Geography
in the University of Leicester

Foreword by Vice-Admiral Sir JOHN EDGELL, F.R.S.

The book traces the development of charting the coastal waters of the British Isles from modest beginnings in the early years of the reign of Henry VIII to the completion of Sir Francis Beaufort's grandiose scheme of marine surveying in the mid-nineteenth century, a scheme which provided the first complete set of accurate charts. The important part played by charts in English maritime history is discussed. Another aspect given prominence is the quest for new techniques in hydrographic surveying. The large number of half-tone illustrations include many early manuscript charts found in the collections of the Admiralty and British Museum. The chart of the East Anglian coast by the Tudor hydrographer, Richard Polter, forms a double-page coloured frontispiece. Almost two thousand charts and surveys are listed in the appendices and they have been arranged in relation to the themes discussed in the text.

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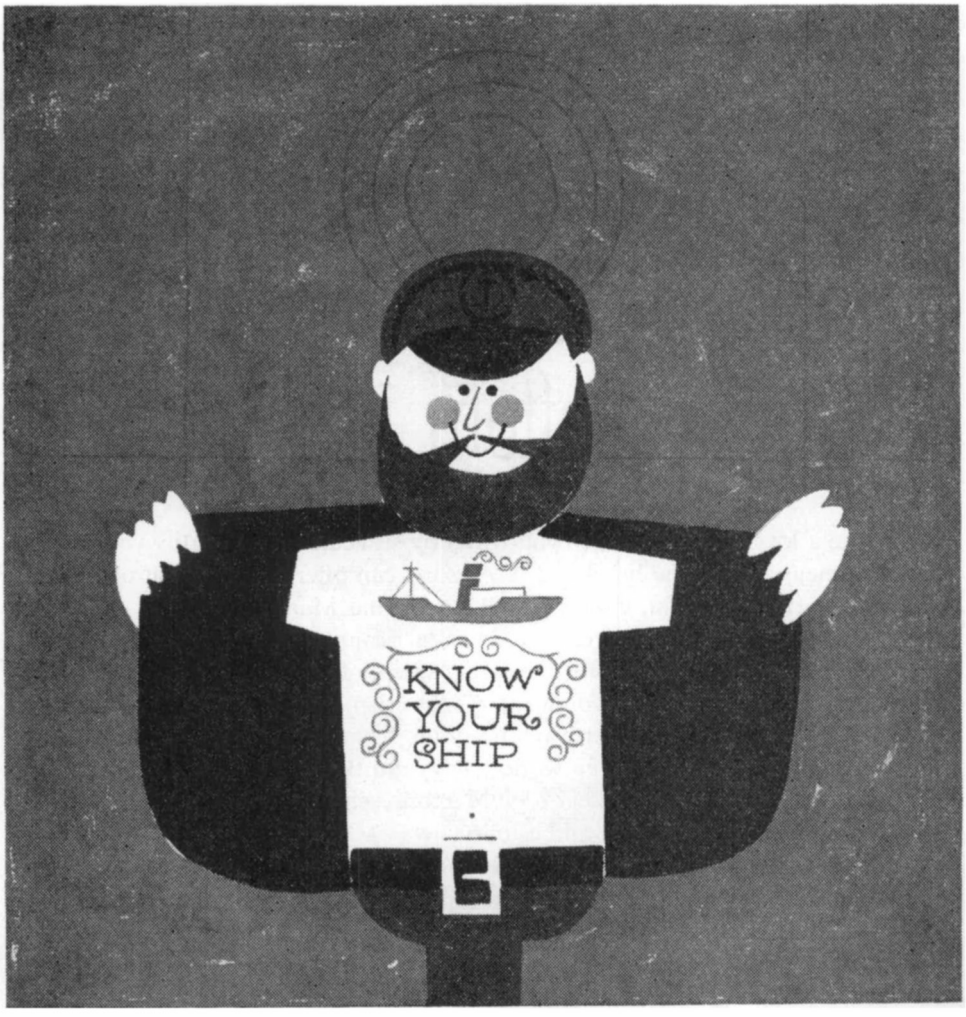

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Frontispiece. *Zeegat van Texel and the Entrance to the Zuider Zee, 1585.* (*Reproduced from Wagenaer's* Spieghel der Zeevaerdt.)

An article reporting the discovery of two documents of considerable interest in the history of navigation in England appears on p. 409. The Sailing Directions and Chart in question are for the areas shown.