

“The Nautical Oracle of the World”, who, in 1809, had published what became the standard work of navigation for sailing to and from China and India, including the first mapping of the treacherous seaways around Singapore.

38 subscribers, including sea Captains and Indian merchants made contributions to the “erection of some work of public utility as a lighthouse on Pedra Branca, on the Straights of Singapore”. It was not until some 15 years later that the “Horsburgh Lighthouse” was built on the outlying island that is now the easternmost point of Singapore. More than a century later, the lighthouse and the land on which it stands became the subject of a bitter dispute between Singapore and Malaysia, two countries which, of course, did not exist when these western gentlemen met at Marwick’s in 1836 to make plans for a tiny slice of the vast British Empire.

Of probably very few examples printed for the 9 men in attendance at the meeting, plus the 38 subscribers.

The text for the broadsheet was reprinted in Canton and Singapore newspapers, but apparently without the subscription list published at the foot of the present document.

Bibliography

Provenance

Provenance: From the papers of William Wetmore, the only American present at the meeting.

Price:

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