

OCEAN PASSAGES FOR THE WORLD

(Originally compiled by Rear Admiral B.T. SOMERVILLE, C.M.G. Second Edition revised by Commander A.F.B. WOODHOUSE, R.N. Published by the Hydrographic Department, Admiralty, London, 1950, 21 x 34 cm., pp. 368, 9 charts).

An original publication by the British Admiralty on this subject appeared in 1896. The first edition of the present work was compiled by Rear Admiral Somerville and published in 1923. While much of the material previously used has been retained in the present Second Edition, its amended and more practical layout renders it extremely valuable to navigators and to others concerned with maritime matters and publications.

New routes have been added, enabling smaller ships to make longer sea voyages and to avoid as far as possible unfavourable weather conditions. Routes for sailing-ships have been retained in their original form, but the lay-out has been changed to agree with that now used for steam-vessels.

In areas where seasonal changes such as monsoons occur or floating ice appears, routes adapted to these conditions are given.

The routes described in the book are ocean passages, properly so called; they may occasionally have to be combined with coastal passages, which are described in appropriate Sailing Directions.

Steamship routes given are mainly intended for two categories of ships: those with a sea-going speed of from 10 to 15 knots, and those whose sea-going speed is under 10 knots.

The first section of the work contains general information on oceanic winds and weather and ocean currents, as well as a description of tropical storms. All this material regarding winds and weather has been supplied by the Director of the Naval Meteorological Service of the Admiralty and that of the currents by the Marine Branch of the Meteorological Office of the Air Ministry.

Section B describes steamship routes through the various oceans and seas, and Section C gives the various sailing-ship routes. Each of these two sections contains a revised and much improved system of indexing.

The fourth section, or Section D, is new: it contains a selection of notes and warnings of a local nature applying to more than one of the routes described in the preceding sections.

Charts in a pocket at the end of the volume show world climatic conditions for January and July; charts numbered 5305, 5306 and 5307 are included showing steamship routes for the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Ocean in that order. Chart 5308 shows world sailing ship routes, as compiled by Admiral Somerville; there is a world current chart, and a world index chart of Admiralty Sailing Directions.

Gnomonic charts (Charts 11a, 18a, 132, 42a, and 53a) may advantageously be used in conjunction with the book for Great Circle sailing. The last two charts, although they apply to the North and South Pacific and Southern Oceans, can be adapted for use in other oceans by a suitable re-numbering of the degrees of longitude. An additional accessory consists in the use of Diagram 5029: Great Circle Diagram for use in Navigation, Aviation and Wireless Telegraphy.