



WAT ER GEBEURT TER BEVARDERING VAN HET GEBRUIK VAN OORSPRONKELIJKE ZEEKAARTEN.

(WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN DEVELOPING THE USE OF ORIGINAL CHARTS).

by

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(Extract from "DE ZEE", *Helder*, N° 1 - January 1928).

In this article Captain LUYMES recalls what he has already written in "*De Zee*" on the subject of the use of original charts. Since 1925, the Netherlands Hydrographic Office has established and issued by way of experiment, a catalogue of original charts of the Baltic Sea with a tabulation of signs and abbreviations.

This catalogue as well as the article "*Use and distribution of Original Charts*", published in Vol. I., N° 2, page 121 of the *Hydrographic Review*, were the starting-point of a discussion which took place at the Conference of Monaco in 1926. All the advantages which would result from the use of these charts were examined and it was decided that the question should be carefully studied by the International Hydrographic Bureau. This study has already commenced to bear fruits. A plan has already been elaborated for the compilation of an international catalogue and that part of it which concerns Europe is already in the hands of the interested Departments with a view to examination by them. At the same time work is proceeding on the composition of a list of Signs and Abbreviations employed on the charts of all nations.

It is evident that National Hydrographic Offices ought to make every possible effort, individually, to make known the original charts which they publish and to be particularly careful that they shall be as clear and easy to read as possible. The Danish, Japanese and Swedish catalogues drawn up in two languages, *i. e.* with the English translation side by side with the national language, deserve particular attention. Concerning the Netherlands' catalogue, it is the intention to add an English preface accompanied by a list of words necessary for understanding the titles of the charts.

In particular, the Swedish Hydrographic Office now gives on its new editions of charts the English translation of the title, of the legend and of the abbreviations. It also published in 1927 a small guide-book entitled: "*Vara Sjökort*" which gives, with their English translation, instructions for the use of Swedish original charts of the Baltic Sea.

In concluding, Captain LUYMES asks the users of marine charts to exercise their influence in order to realise the programme which has been considered. They ought, henceforth, to interest themselves more in the development of this programme by actively participating in it so as to help forward individual initiative and the International Hydrographic Bureau. If, on the contrary, a passive attitude is adopted concerning progress, the result will be a vicious circle. The best stimulant to an enterprise is to see that its efforts are not condemned to sterility and that its appeals do not remain without response.
