



A scarce mariner's star atlas

NORIE, John William.

Norie's Set of Celestial Maps, for Finding the Principal Stars in the Heavens; Adapted for the Use of Nautical Men, Astronomers, and Others.

London: Charles Wilson, 1844. Quarto, original boards with publisher's label; 6 numbered celestial charts, two folding.

£1,250

A rare celestial chart book, designed to be of practical use to seaman and amateur astronomers, by important chartmaker J.W. Norie (1772-1843). This example was published the year after his death. Cox's stamp describes him as an 'opticians of Devonport'; however he was also a maker of scientific instruments and for many years in charge of maintaining the chronometers of the depôt of the Admiralty at Devonport. Born in 1786, he became a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1831 and died in 1874. The obituary in the 'Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society' (Vol 35) specifically refers to his 'retiring disposition'.

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