



The story of the Spanish Armada from the House of Lords tapestries

PINE, John.

The Tapestry Hangings of the House of Lords: Representing the several Engagements Between the English and Spanish Fleets. In the ever memorable Year MDLXXXVIII...

London, John Pine, 1739. Later full calf gilt, marbled edges; engr. title, dedication, pp. (ii) (list of subscribers) + 24, engr. map, 10 maritime views, 10 charts printed in pairs, the views and charts printed in blue within black separately-printed decorative borders.

£16,000

A superb commemoration of the Spanish Armada of 1588. The book contains ten sea battle views drawn by Clement Lemprière after tapestries hanging in the House of Lords; and ten charts of the progress of the skirmishes drawn by Hubert-François Gravelot after Robert Adams, all engraved by John Pine. In 1591 Lord Howard of Effingham commissioned the Dutch marine painter Hendrik Cornelisz Vroom to design ten scenes of the Spanish Armada to be made into tapestry wall-hangings by François Spierinck of Delft. In 1616 the tapestries were bought by James I, who had them hung in the House of Lords, where they remained through Revolution and Restoration, only to be destroyed when the Houses of Parliament burnt down in 1834. This left Pine's book as the only record, so it is lucky that Pine worried that 'Time, or Accident, or moths may deface these valuable shadows'. The charts were copied from those of Robert Adam, engraved by Augustine Ryther and published in 1588. The text is an historical account of the Armada, a description of the plates and an explanation of the medals and other ornaments.



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