



Broadsheet plan of Nelson's victory at the Battle of the Nile

FAIRBURN, John.

Disposition of the English and French Fleets at the Commencement of the Action August 1st 1798. A Chart of the Mouths of the Nile, Alexandria, &c. &c.

London: Fairburn, 1798. Engraved map with original body colour, with letterpress text. Sheet 395 x 505mm.

£2,500

A very scarce broadsheet celebrating the victory that gave Britain's navy undisputed control of south European waters during the Napoleonic Wars. The upper panel shows how the British swooped down on the French fleet anchored in Abukir Bay; the lower shows the position of the bay in relation to the Nile Delta and Alexandria. To the right is letterpress text copying Nelson's dispatches to Admiral John Jervis, Commander of the Mediterranean Fleet, as published in the London Gazette, a list of ships of both sides and the casualties of the British. Broadsheets such as these were published to inform the general public about important events, sold in bookshops & stationers. Issued as loose sheets they were difficult to store, so surviving examples are rare.

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