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The Port of London

Stock#: 85124
Map Maker: Harding
Date: 1834
Place: London
Color: Color
Condition: VG+
Size: 15 x 10.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The Birth of Tinted Lithography.

The 1834 tinted lithograph, "The Port of London," by the distinguished British artist James Duffield Harding, presents an energetic depiction of the River Thames, complete with the bustling river traffic and a background view of the City, including the iconic Monument. Published in *Sketches at Home and Abroad*, this piece is recognized as a landmark in the history of lithography, initiating the popular trend of tinted lithographs.

Harding's work is an exquisite representation of the mid-19th-century urban landscape and maritime activity in London. The Port of London was then the busiest port in the world, serving as a hub for global trade and commerce. This piece captures the dynamism of the Thames, the lifeblood of London, with its ships and boats—each one a cog in the great machine of the British Empire.

Sketches at Home and Abroad, where this lithograph was first published, marks a significant development in the art of lithography. The advent of tinted lithographs, as introduced by this collection, would go on to shape the market significantly for many years to come, culminating in grand works such as Roberts's *Holy Land* series between 1842-1849. Hence, Harding's lithograph stands at the inception of an influential tradition in graphic arts.

Moreover, the artistic merit and significance of Harding's work were recognized by King Louis Philippe, to whom the book was dedicated. In appreciation of Harding's artwork, the King presented him with a diamond ring, further cementing the lithograph's place in art history. Thus, "The Port of London" is not only a vivid snapshot of a historical moment but also a pioneering artifact in the evolution of lithographic



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Detailed Condition: