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**The Great Fire at London Bridge. Scene at Cottons Wharf on Sunday morning, June the 23rd 1861**

**Stock#:** 91450  
**Map Maker:** Gebrüder Rocca  
**Date:** 1861 circa  
**Place:** Berlin  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 15 x 11 inches  
**Price:** \$ 245.00



**Description:**

Color lithograph of the Tooley Street Fire, as seen from London Bridge on the morning following the fire's start. This image, published by the Rocca Brothers in Berlin, is very similar but not identical to "The Great Fire in Southwark: Scene at Cotton's Wharf," published in the *Illustrated London News*. A similar scene also appears on the commemorative plaque for the event at Hay's Galleria, at the intersection of Battle Bridge Lane and Tooley Street.

Spectators, in awe of the scene, fill boats in the Thames as firefighters try to put out the raging fire.

The fire, which took two weeks to extinguish completely, became a spectacle, drawing an estimated 30,000 onlookers. Due to the enormous cost of the blaze, the insurance companies that funded the fire service London Fire Engine Establishment successfully lobbied the government to create the publicly-funded Metropolitan (later London) Fire Brigade.

**Detailed Condition:**

Printer's blindstamp in bottom margin (Kunst Handlung I Rocca Berlin). Three stains in bottom margin. Three tears in top margin, none entering image. Piece missing from upper left margin.