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978-1-108-01841-8 - The Naval Chronicle, Volume 2

Edited by James Stanier Clarke and John McArthur

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The Naval Chronicle

The *Naval Chronicle*, published in 40 volumes between 1799 and 1818, is a key source for British maritime and military history, and is also sought after by those researching family histories. Six instalments per year were produced (and often reprinted with corrections) by Bunney and Gold, later Joyce Gold, in London, and bound up into two volumes per year. Printed economically, on paper of varying weights and often with very small type, the extant copies have been heavily used over the course of two centuries, present significant conservation challenges, and are difficult to find outside major libraries. This reissue is the first complete printed reproduction of what was the most influential maritime publication of its day. The subjects covered range widely, including accounts of battles, notices of promotions, marriages and deaths, lists of ships and their tonnages, reports of courts martial, shipwrecks, privateers and prizes, biographies and poetry, notes on the latest technology, and letters. Each volume also contains engravings and charts relating to naval engagements and important harbours from Jamaica to Timor, Newfoundland to Canton, and Penzance to Port Jackson.

Volume 2

Volume 2 (1799) contains technical literature, including items on improved ventilation below decks, signals, the preservation of food, and medical advice. It includes Nelson's report of the Battle of St Vincent, and documents concerning Lord Hood's control of the besieged royalist port of Toulon in 1793. It also contains parts of Coleridge's *Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, and an account of the funeral of Admiral Lord Howe.

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The Naval Chronicle

*Containing a General and Biographical
History of the Royal Navy of the United
Kingdom with a Variety of Original Papers on
Nautical Subjects*

VOLUME 2: JULY-DECEMBER 1799

EDITED BY JAMES STANIER CLARKE
AND JOHN MCARTHUR



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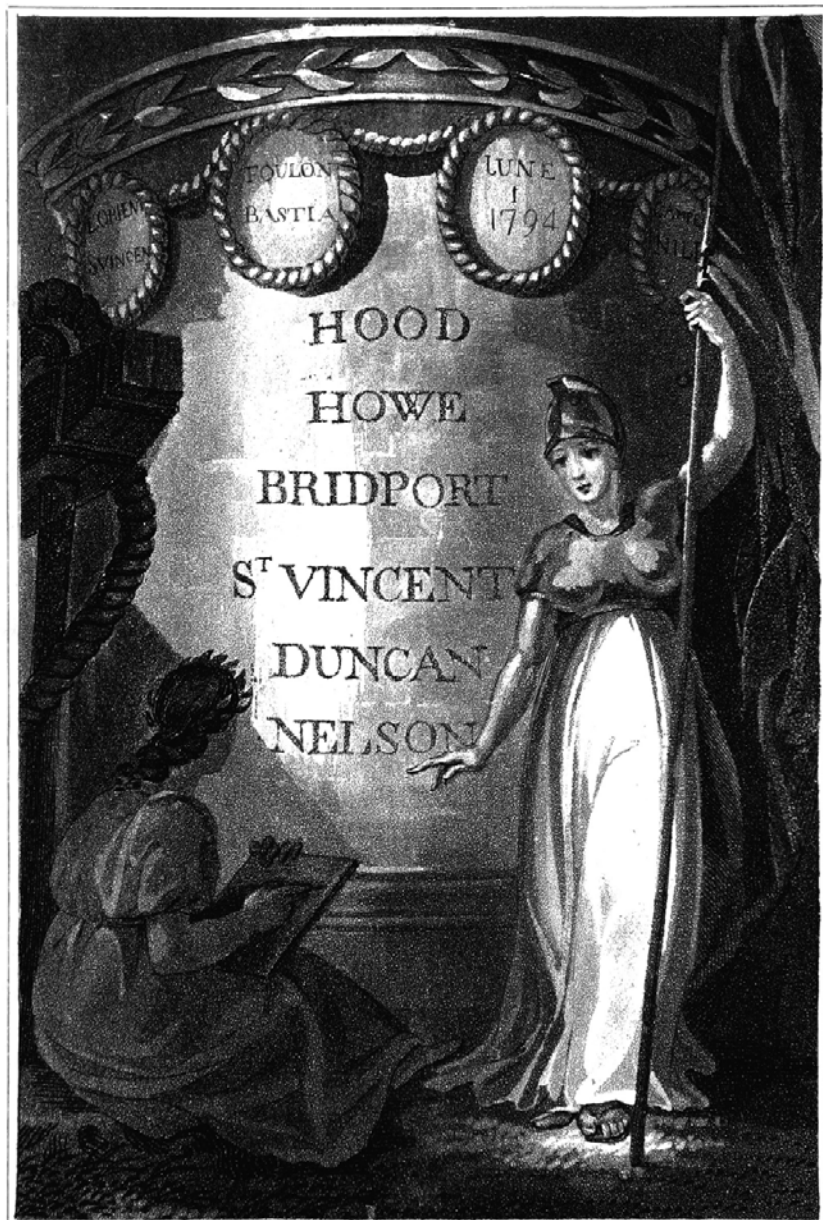
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NAVAL CHRONICLE.

Vol. II.



J. Forster Del.

J. Medland Sculp.

*In native Vigour bold, by Freedom led,
No Path of Honor have they failed to tread
But, while they wisely plan, and bravely dare,
Their own Achievements are their latest care.*

Hayley.

London Printed & Published by Bunnell & Gold, Shoe Lane. Jan^y 21 1800.

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TO
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
GEORGE JOHN EARL SPENCER,
PRIVY COUNSELLOR
KNIGHT OF THE MOST NOBLE ORDER OF THE GARTER
AN ELDER BROTHER OF THE TRINITY HOUSE
AND FIRST LORD COMMISSIONER OF THE ADMIRALTY
OF GREAT BRITAIN,
&c. &c. &c.

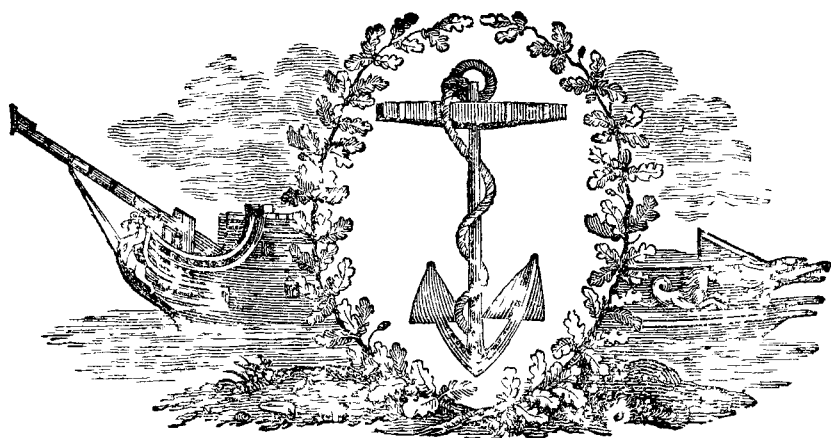
This Work,
COMMENCED UNDER HIS AUSPICES,
CONTINUES, BY HIS PERMISSION,
TO BE INSCRIBED,
WITH GRATEFUL RESPECT.

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P R E F A C E

TO THE SECOND VOLUME.

IT was well remarked by an eminent and successful periodical writer, that all considerate *Lords of the Soil* will, for good reasons, not only continue in possession a Tenant, who holds merely at pleasure, so long as he duly performs Suit and Service, but will also allow him proportionable advantages, if, through his industry, and enquiries of skilful persons, he shall improve the premises. — A relation somewhat like this, Mr. Urban* of venerable memory, always considered as subsisting between himself, and the Public. As an hitherto favoured Tenant, we therefore again come forward on concluding our second volume, with our respectful thanks; and at the same time embrace the opportunity of reviewing the contents, and progress of our Work.

* Gentleman's Magazine, for 1746,

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Under the head of **BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIRS** we have rendered an essential service to our Country, by placing in a more extensive, and correct point of view, some of the first Characters of the British Navy; and also, by rendering others the object of public attention, whose exertions, though highly beneficial to the period in which they appeared, are at present by no means sufficiently remembered: our Memoirs of Lord Hood; of the late Admiral Sir Charles Knowles's services in Russia, and of the late Captain Alms, were particularly published on the above principles.

The **TOULON PAPERS**, which have given so much satisfaction, will enable the historian of the present War, to form a correct idea of one of the most important events, that has taken place; and which before was too imperfectly considered: he will also derive assistance from those original professional documents, with which, by the flattering attention of different Correspondents, we have given an additional interest to the Naval Chronicle.

In the **PHILOSOPHICAL DEPARTMENT** many sincere thanks are due to our Professional Correspondent (L.) whose valuable answers to the Queries of the **HUMANE SOCIETY**, have been unavoidably delayed; they however shall have the earliest attention paid them in our power, as well as the other communications of this Officer that have not yet appeared. We are also sensible of the value of Mr. Whidbey's MS. remarks on Time-keepers, his important observations on Compasses, and on the present method

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of noting the Variation: the future communications of so experienced and able a mariner, as Mr. Whidbey, will not only prove a considerable addition to our work, but must be of essential benefit to THE SERVICE in general. The continued assistance of J. M. Esq. in our philosophical department; as well as the communications of BRITANNICUS, and A. G. NAUTICUS; the polite attention of LIEUTENANT H. (who will not allow us to mention his real rank), with the assistance of our friend from Bristol, who subscribes himself A SEAMAN, and many others, here claim our grateful acknowledgments.

When reviewing the MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENT of the Naval Chronicle, our obligations are considerable to those Gentlemen, who have enabled us to bring forward subjects equally interesting, and instructive to professional men. Amid these our early Friend H. W. H. has our first, and hearty thanks. We are also duly sensible, of the communication of Sir Home Popham's Letter "on the best mode of defence in case of invasion;" of the literary assistance we have received from a worthy Baronet in Leicestershire; and of the attention of those officers who favoured us with Lord Nelson's MS. remarks on the Action of February 14, 1797, and also with further particulars of that glorious event.

Our selections of NAVAL POETRY are enriched with some original lines of considerable merit; to these we have been careful to add such poems, as are connected with our subject, and claim pre-eminence in point of genius. To poor Falconer, of whom

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we are promised some interesting particulars, our work has assigned the sublime naval ode styled the Storm, which so long had been given to G. A. Steevens: many other nautical compositions, have been thus brought forward, that before were too much blended with the general mass of English poetry.—A Cambridge Correspondent, on whom our readers may rely, informs us, that “The Rime of the Ancyent Mariner” is undoubtedly the composition of Mr. Coleridge of Jesus College: we particularly recommend the perusal of the whole to our Professional Correspondents, who must not complain of a dearth of Poetic Genius, when such compositions appear. We are also happy in receiving the remarks of a Seaman, who dates from his cabin in the gun room, on that beautiful Commercial Epic Poem of Camoens, *The Lusiad*, which the spirited translation of Mr. Mickle, has given to his countrymen:

False to themselves, and to their interest blind,
Are those cold Judges, of fastidious mind—
Far wiser those, who, with a generous joy,
Nor blindly fond, nor petulantly coy,
Follow each movement of the varying Muse,
Whatever step her airy form may chuse;—
Who, if her voice to simple Nature lean,
And fill with Human Forms her Epic Scene,
Pleas'd with her aim, assist her moral plan,
And feel with manly sympathy for Man.

HAYLEY.

Our GAZETTE LETTERS form an official history of the noble achievements of our brave Seamen during the present important crisis; and have proved in their detached, and collective state, very acceptable to

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professional Men: yet, as they regularly appear in the Public Prints, and have therefore been published prior to their insertion in the Chronicle, our wish, that they should not occupy too large a portion of our work, has made us hitherto unable to keep pace with the brilliant exploits of The British Navy. This however we shall endeavour to rectify; and can assure our readers, that such letters, as we insert, are correctly copied from The Gazette, without the smallest omission, or abridgment.

To dwell longer on the various subjects of our work, might render our gratitude ostentatious, or improper. We therefore return our thanks in general for the patronage we have received, at a period so unfriendly to Literature, which we shall endeavour to merit by our exertions; and for the present take leave of our readers with the lines Sylvanus Urban, in 1753, addressed to his numerous readers;

The varied Volume of the year's
 A Treasury of Art;
 The Index at the last appears,
 And points out every part:
 So let us constantly review
 The varied scene that's past,
 And as the rolling Years renew
 Examine well the last.

PLATES from Original Designs by Mr. Pocock.

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