The Trial of Lord William Russell (key to the painting by Sir George Hayter), Napoleon at the Siege of St Jean d'Acre 1799 and caricatures of Rev Dr P Springer (A fiddle DD) and Gentle Cloe, verso.

£120

Sir George Hayter



REF: 1062

Height: 24 cm (9.4")

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Width: 29 cm (11.4")

Framed Height: 42 cm (16.5")

Framed Width: 47 cm (18.5")

Description

The trial of Lord Russell, a Whig who was convicted of treason for his alleged part in the Rye House Plot of 1683 to assassinate Charles II and his brother and heir, James, Duke of York, took place at the Old Bailey in London. The painting portrays Russell's trial and conviction, shortly before his execution. Completed in 1825, it focuses on Lord Russell's wife, Rachel Russell, looking up at her husband in the dock, while taking notes. The painting was intended to portray the dramatic and emotional aspects of the trial, particularly emphasising the relationship between Lord Russell and his wife. The Duke of Bedford, a descendant of Lord Russell, commissioned the painting, and it was exhibited at the Royal Academy's summer exhibition. The present work is presumably a copy after a print of the painting that was published with a key to the various characters in the scene. On the back of the drawing is a watercolour of Napoleon at the Siege of St Jean d'Acre in 1799.

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