



A famous satire of the French Revolutionary Wars

GILLRAY, James.

Fighting for the Dunghill: \_ or \_ Jack Tar settling Buonaparte.

London: Henry George Bohn, 1851. Coloured etching. 265 x 360mm.

£350

A British sailor, 'Britannia Rules the Waves' on the hat, sits astride a globe, his right foot taking purchase on Malta. He battles Napoleon Bonaparte, bare-chested (with Nelson inscribed on his hollow solar plexus) but wearing a bicorne hat and sleeve ruffles, who is falling backwards with his nose gushing blood. A satire on the British naval dominance in the Eastern Mediterranean, following Nelson's victory at the Battle of the Nile in June 1798. Having destroyed the French Mediterranean fleet, Nelson turned to Malta, besieging the French garrison there until their supplies ran out. The caricature was drawn and etched by James Gillray and originally published by Hannah Humphrey in November 1798. This example, printed from the original plate, was published in Bohn's 'Historical and Descriptive Account of the Caricatures of James Gillray', the most complete edition of Gillray's work as it included the coarser 'Suppressed Plates'.

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