



China Tea Clipper Watercolour, Ariel, By Pelham Jones

Sold



REF: 29431

Height: 41 cm (16.1")

Width: 67 cm (26.4")

Framed Height: 51.5 cm (20.3")

Framed Width: 78 cm (30.7")

Framed Depth: 78 cm (30.7")

Description

Tea Clipper "ARIEL" by Pelham Jones.

A very colourful watercolour of the three-mast clipper, "ARIEL" by Pelham Jones. Pelham Jones was an accomplished marine artist who was born circa 1890 and flourished in the 1930's. The Ariel was one of the best known of the famous China tea clippers, she had a fine reputation for making fast voyages between China and England in the late 1860s, but after seven years' service she vanished on a voyage to Australia.

The 'Ariel' was designed by William Rennie and built in 1865 by Robert Steele & Co., Greenock, who had long specialized in the design and building of fast ships. Constructed for the China tea trade, she measured 197 feet in length by 33 feet in the beam and a tonnage of 853 gross. Under the ownership of Shaw, Lowther & Maxton of London, one of the finest ships of her type and is remembered for her achievement in the exciting race between Fuzhou, China, and London with the first crop of tea in the 1866 season. It was beaten by the clipper 'Taeping', having sailed 16,000 miles (26,000 km) in just 99 days, which arrived at the London Docks 20 minutes earlier. Taeping divided her winnings of 10 shillings per ton with the owners of Ariel and Captain McKinnon divided the captain's £100 with Captain Keay, who hailed from Anstruther.

The Clipper Ship Era began in 1843 as a result of the growing demand for a faster delivery of tea from China; a premium was paid for the first consignment of tea to reach London in each season. It ended with the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 with most of the clippers transferring to the Australian trade, carrying general cargo to either Sydney or Melbourne, and returning with wool. The Ariel sailed from London, for Sydney, on 31st January 1872, but failed to arrive. She is assumed by most who knew her to have been fatally pooped - her fine lines always made her at risk of this. It was believed she probably foundered in the Southern Ocean after rounding the Cape of Good Hope.