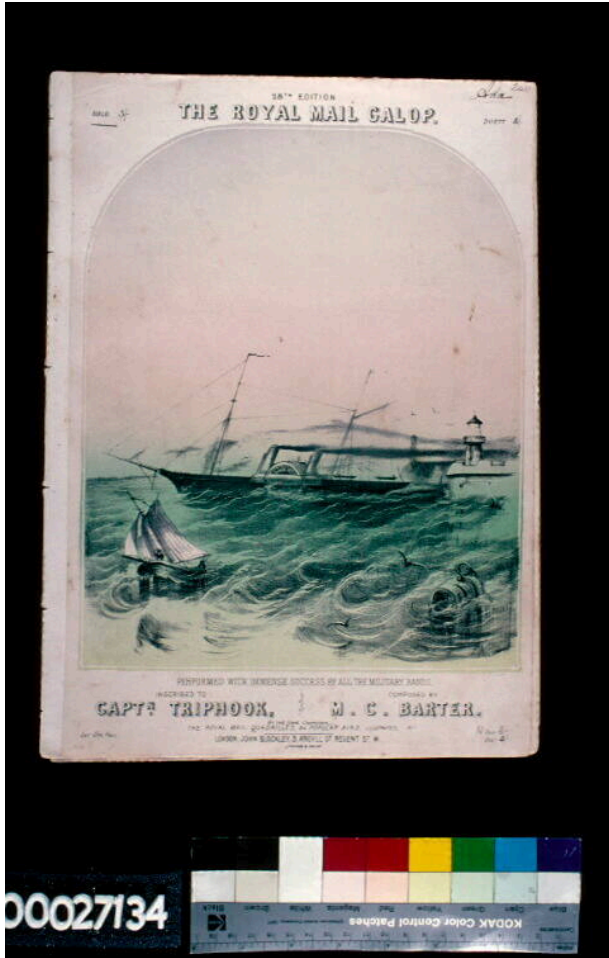


Basic Detail Report



00027134

Title

The Royal Mail Galop

Date

1890s

Primary Maker

M C Barter

Medium

Ink on paper

Dimensions

Overall: 350 x 255 mm, 0.05 kg

Name

Sheet music

History

Sheet music offers an insight into popular culture and social values at the time of their production. The widely distributed pieces were fairly cheap to buy, making them

popular with the general public. Music was an integral part of people's social life in the home and at public events such as balls, recitals, concerts and theatre shows. For over 400 years the British Post Office either managed or contracted the conveyance of overseas mails on commercial ships from Britain. In 1823, to ensure greater security, the British Government began to transfer responsibility for the mail service to the Admiralty. The P&O Company was founded in 1837 under the partnership of Wilcox and Anderson. They secured a contract to carry the mails from the UK to the peninsular ports of Vigo, Oporto, Lisbon, Cadiz and Gibraltar. In 1840 the company secured a new contract to extend the service to Alexandria in Egypt, and in 1844 to Madras, Ceylon, Calcutta, Singapore, Hong Kong and Shanghai. In 1851 the Admiralty awarded P&O the contract to carry mails to Sydney, Australia twice a month via Singapore. They provided a regular mail service between the Far East and England via the Suez Canal. P & O's first trade route incorporated Hong Kong, Singapore, Penang, Ceylon, Galle, Aden and Suez. The second route visited Calcutta, Ceylon and Suez, with Australia being added on the line after Ceylon. The arrival of mail to Australia was greeted with excitement in the emerging colony.