

Basic Detail Report

00029046

Title

Leviathan the Great Eastern quadrille

Date

c 1858

Primary Maker

Phineas Ezekiel Van Noorden

Medium

Ink on paper

Dimensions

Overall: 332 x 245 mm, 2 mm, 0.05 kg

Name

Sheet music

History

The paddle steamer GREAT EASTERN was the third of Isambard Kingdom Brunel's great shipbuilding masterpieces - the others being the SS GREAT BRITAIN and the SS GREAT WESTERN - this vessel was far in advance of its time. Laid down in 1854 and launched in 1858 the GREAT EASTERN displaced over 18,914 tons - three times the size of the next largest vessel, the SS GREAT BRITAIN. Brunel had designed the ship to carry 4,000 passengers (or 10,000 soldiers) along with 6,000 tons of cargo to India or Australia without re-coaling. Driven by two paddle wheels (powered by an oscillating engine) and a screw propeller (driven by a horizontal direct acting engine) the GREAT EASTERN with a length of 692 feet and a beam of 82 feet had a top speed of 15 knots. Construction and launching difficulties followed by the death of the vessel's designer delayed the vessel's final fit-out. Although designed to carry passengers to Australia and India, the ship was first deployed taking migrants across the Atlantic to America. Unable to operate successfully the vessel was later converted to a cable layer and broken up in 1888.