

Basic Detail Report



V00004850

Title

A History of Marine Architecture, Volumes 1 - 3

Date

1800 - 1802

Primary Maker

John Charnock

Medium

Paper, ink, leather bound boards, gilt

Dimensions

Overall: 46 x 304 x 250 mm, 2.1 kg

Name

Book

History

John Charnock (1756 - 1807) began his studies around 1767 at the Reverend Teynell Cotton's school at Winchester under the care of the Headmaster Dr Joseph Warton. He entered Oxford University in 1774 as a Gentleman Commoner of Merton College, where he discovered his passion for writing. After university he went on to study naval and military tactics, with the hopes of taking a military profession. After his parents denied his request, he entered the naval services as a volunteer. After some time he retired to private life and continued to write, and his publications became his primary form of revenue. His fourth publication A History of Maritime Architecture came to fruition after almost twenty years work at an enormous cost of £6,000. The publication received great acclaim however the high price at nine guineas limited its sales and put Charnock in serious financial difficulties. Charnock went on to complete further publications and second editions to earlier works, and contributed to the Naval Chronicles and other periodicals for several years. He died in May 1807. In an obituary written by Edmund Lodge, his works were described as having 'indefatigable research, sagacious selection, and faithful detail' but they had 'certain faults of style which must inevitably attend rapid composition'. His greatest work, A History of Marine Architecture, was described as 'very valuable and superb work, illustrated by a great number of fine engravings'.