

# Basic Detail Report



00017440

Title

Broadsheet featuring the ballads 'A New Song Called Mermaid' and 'The Stage of Life'.

Date

1813 - 1838

Primary Maker

James Catnach

Medium

Woodcut engraving and printed text on paper mounted on card.

Dimensions

Overall: 250 x 198 mm, 0.023 kg

Name

Broadsheet

History

Broadsheet rhymes and verses were the cheapest prints available during the 18th and 19th century. They were sold by street sellers known as Flying Stationers, who charged a minimal fee of a penny or half-penny. They featured popular songs that were often sung in homes, inns and taverns and covered a range of themes relating to contemporary events or stories. Printed alongside the songs were woodcut illustrations. Most of the broadsheet publishers did not date or mark their works, making it difficult to pinpoint when they were produced. The publication of ballads was part of the commemoration and production of material about shipwrecks. Ships were part of the everyday life in the 19th century and stories about their voyages, wrecks, record breaking voyages and commissions often featured in newspapers and commemorative souvenirs