JOHN BENNETT fine paintings

The East Indiaman Dutton in three positions off Dover

ROBERT DODD

£ POA



REF: 374887

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Description

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ROBERT DODD1748-1815 English SchoolThe East Indiaman Dutton in three positions off DoverOil on canvas, signed and dated 'Robt. Dodd 1786' (lower right)88.3 x 149.9.cms343/4 x 59 inches Provenance: Commissioned by Capt. Henry Rice (1743 - 1797), Managing Owner of the Dutton, and thence by descentWith Martyn Gregory, London, 1988Collection of Thomas James Perkins (1932–2016), Belvedere, CaliforniaThence by descent to private collection, Tiburon, CaliforniaExhibited: (Probably) London, Royal Academy of Arts, 1787, no. 390, as 'Homeward bound East Indiaman taking a pilot off Dover'.London, Martyn Gregory, Chinnery and Paintings of the China Coast, 14 June - 8 July 1988, no. 41. THE DUTTONIn Dodd's painting, the Dutton is shown in three positions off Dover. This almost certainly depicts her second voyage, spanning the years 1785 -6, when she set sail from Portsmouth on 17th April 1785 under the command of Captain West, bound for Bengal and Madras. She reached the latter on 7th September. On the return leg, St Helena was reached on 23rd May 1786 arriving at the Downs on 8th August. Sailing out of the Channel ships had to negotiate the busy Narrows (the Straits of Dover), winds permitting. In the left background the ship, sailing up Channel, fires a gun and hoists the Union flag at the fore topgallant masthead to request a Pilot, who is seen setting off in a lugger to the right. In the centre, the ship is shown in profile, hove-to (with sails backed to take the way off the ship) and hauling down the Union as the Pilot comes on board from his lugger alongside. At the right the Indiaman stands away for the Downs and the hazards of the Forelands, Goodwin Sands and the Thames Estuary.The Dutton was built for the owner Henry Rice by John Barnard at Barnard’s Thames Yard in Deptford and was launched on 13th July 1781. The ship was an East Indiaman and was originally named Director but this was changed to Dutton before construction was completed.Her overall length was 142 feet 9 inches, the keel 115 feet 10 inches, the beam 35 feet 2 inches and the tons burthen 780. (Tons burthen, also known as Builder’s Old Measurement, BOM or OM was the method in use in England between around 1650 to 1849 to calculate the cargo capacity of a ship. From the length and beam of the vessel, the tonnage of a ship could be estimated. The term went through various iterations from the Middle English byrthen to Early Modern English burthen and then to burden. King Edward I had levied the first tax based on tons burthen in 1303 and it was not until steam propulsion usurped that of sail, with the consequence of much of the below decks space being taken up with boilers, coal and machinery, that a new system had to be found and that appeared in 1849 with the Moorsom System.) There were three decks on the Dutton, she had a crew of 100 men and was armed with 26 guns, some 6-pounder and the rest 9-pounders.The Dutton was the second ship of this name owned by the Rice family. The first Dutton was another EIC ship built in 1763 and was originally captained (but not owned) by Henry Rice's uncle Capt. David Rice (d. after 1769) and appears to have been captained by H...

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