

SA938619

Walter Hancock's Enterprise Steam Omnibus, 19th-Century Hand-Coloured Lithograph

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA938619****Date of manufacture: 19th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 59 cm (23.2")

Width = 66 cm (26.0")

Depth = 3 cm (1.2")

Description

This charming mid-19th-century hand-coloured lithograph depicts the 'Enterprise Steam Omnibus', the most successful steam carriage of its period. In the early 19th century, long-distance travel was predominantly undertaken by horse-drawn carriages. Yet, every so often, the clatter of hooves was abruptly overshadowed by the whirl of steam-powered technology. From around 1801, several plucky inventors began developing carriages which could propel themselves via steam. The majority were notoriously unreliable, often breaking down, too slow to be practical, and occasionally exploding. The first steam-powered carriage, invented by Richard Trevithick of Cornwall, made its debut in 1801. It was known as 'The Puffing Devil' or 'Captain Dick's Puffer' and said to cause quite a fright when trundling towards you. But this, like several others, couldn't sustain the rigours of regular long distance trips, which were required to support the cost of running them. Walter Hancock's (1799-1852) carriages were different. They became the first to run regularly - initially from Stratford and London via the 'Infant', a ten-seater bus, and in 1833, between London Wall and Paddington v...

Seller Details

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