Print - O, the Roast Beef of Old England

Object: Print

Place of origin: England (made)

Date: 1749 (engraved)
1749 (published)

Artist/Maker: Hogarth, William, born 1697 - died 10 (engraver)
Hogarth, William, born 1697 - died 10 (artist)
Mosley, Charles (engraver)

Materials and Techniques: engraving print on paper

Credit Line: Bequeathed by Rev. Alexander Dyce

Museum number: DYCE.2771

Gallery location: Prints & Drawings Study Room, level E, case DG, shelf 11, box A5

Descriptive line
O, the Roast Beef of Old England (or The Gate of Calais); The scene depicts a side of beef being transported from the harbour to an English tavern in the port; After Hogarth's 1748 painting of the same name; Engraving print on paper; Engraved by William Hogarth and Charles Mosley; English School; 1749.

Physical description
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Historical context note
The song that provided the popular title for Hogarth's 1748 oil painting 'The Roast Beef of Old England' is an English patriotic ballad. It was written by Henry Fielding for his play 'The Grub-Street Opera', which was first performed in 1731. The lyrics were added to over the next twenty years. The song increased in popularity when given a new setting by the composer Richard Leveridge, and it became customary for theatre audiences to sing it before, after, and occasionally during, any new play.

Hogarth's original oil painting is in the Tate Collection, N01464.

URL
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O1157929/o-the-roast-beef-of-print-hogarth-william/