

THE NELSON COLLECTION FACTSHEET 2



The Nelson Collection is a display of prized artefacts, letters and valuable silverware from an important period in history. It vividly recalls the exciting times following the Revolution, and a series of brilliant naval victories, ending with Trafalgar.

Lord Nelson & Lloyd's

The Nelson Collection at Lloyd's vividly recalls the long war with France following the French Revolution, and the brilliant series of naval victories ending with Trafalgar. It is also a reminder that this was a relatively dramatic era for Lloyd's. From a disorganised coffee house, the Society had emerged as a powerful fraternity of underwriters who were playing a leading part in supporting the nation's war efforts.

Lloyd's links with Horatio Nelson date from the first of his great victories, the Battle of the Nile, 1798. A fund of over £38,000 was raised at Lloyd's to relieve the suffering of the wounded and bereaved. The fund's management committee under the great John Julius Angerstein, also voted Nelson £500 '...to be laid out in plate in such a manner as you will be pleased to direct, as a small token of their gratitude...'

Nelson's 'Nile Dinner Service' was later augmented with a similar gift from the Lloyd's fund raised after the Battle of Copenhagen in 1801. These silver dinner services formed the nucleus of the Nelson Collection.

Vice Admiral Horatio Lord Nelson KB

The son of a Norfolk rector, Horatio Nelson was born at Burnham Thorpe on 29th September 1758. When he was 12 years old he joined the Royal Navy and three years later was on an expedition to the Arctic. In 1777, he passed his lieutenant's examination and proceeded to the West Indies. It was here that he met Frances Nisbet, the widow of a doctor, who he married on March 11, 1787.

He returned to England in 1787 and five years later gained command of the *Agamemnon* and was ordered to the Mediterranean. It was during the siege of Calvi in Corsica in July 1794, that Nelson lost the sight of his right eye.

However, in 1797 he achieved great success in the Battle of Cape St. Vincent. This earned him a Knighthood of the Order of the Bath and promotion to Rear-Admiral. The Collar of the Order of the Bath is part of the Lloyd's Nelson Collection, but this is currently on loan to the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich.

In the July of 1797, he took part in siege of Santa Cruz de Tenerife. It was here that a musket ball shattered Nelson's right arm. The damage to his arm was so bad that amputation was necessary. In spite of his injury he achieved great distinction a year later at the Battle of the Nile. For this victory he was given the title Baron Nelson of the Nile and of Burnham Thorpe. His next success was the hard-won

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Battle of Copenhagen in 1801 and after this action he was created a Viscount.

Horatio Nelson's last great battle came in 1805, off Cape Trafalgar, when his ships defeated the combined fleets of France and Spain. But on 21st October, in the heat of the battle he was mortally wounded.

Nelson at Trafalgar

Trafalgar, Nelson's last and greatest victory, was one of the most decisive sea battles in history. For over two years the British Navy had watched and chased the Franco-Spanish fleet to the West Indies and back. Finally, this combined fleet of 33 ships under its Commander Admiral Villeneuve came out of Cadiz to do battle.

On October 19, the dramatic signal was relayed to Horatio Nelson, aboard HMS Victory - 'The enemy ships are coming out of port'. 'I will give them such a shaking as they have never yet experienced', Nelson had written prophetically to his friend Henry Blackwood, captain of HMS Euryalus; 'at least I will lay down my life in the attempt'.

By the late afternoon of October 21, Nelson lay dead and more than half the enemy ships had been taken or destroyed. The remainder scattered, some to be captured later. Napoleon never again threatened England with invasion.

The day's events were recorded as they happened by the master of HMS Euryalus. His log book, in the Lloyd's Nelson Collection, is open at the page recording Nelson's famous message to the fleet - 'England expects that every man will do his duty'.

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The 'Glorious First of June'

After each of the major naval battles of the 1790's a charitable subscription was started in the City of London. These were usually organised and managed by a committee of merchants at Lloyd's Coffee House. The first of these funds was raised in 1794 after Lord Howe's victory over the French. This day, the 'Glorious First of June' was the first major setback for Jacobin France since it had declared war on Britain.

Immediately the news was received, a general meeting at Lloyd's recommended raising a subscription for the relief of the wounded. *The Times* notes that 'to the honour of the subscribers of Lloyd's Coffee House, they, with the liberality which will ever distinguish that respectable body of men, in less than one hour subscribed a thousand guineas.'

The greatly respected John Julius Angerstein chaired the management committee and the fund that raised £21,281. Over £1,300 came from a charity performance at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, put on by the playwright, Sheridan. The victor, Lord Howe, donated his entire prize money from the battle.

Five pieces of presentation silver from this fund are part of the Nelson Collection. These include the two tureens awarded posthumously to John Harvey and John Hutt, respectively commanding HMS Brunswick and HMS Queen.

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Silver & tableware

Pair of silver gilt wine coolers



A pair of George III silver gilt wine coolers, based on the Flaxman Patriotic Fund vase design, but with handles formed as intertwining serpents around a warrior maskhead, possibly Achilles, the vase covers replaced by collars cast and bolted on with vine leaves and grapes, complete with detachable liners, inscribed "From the Patriotic Fund at Lloyd's to Sir Samuel Hood KB, commanding a squadron of his Majesty's Ships at War in the attack of a fleet of the enemy off Rochfort on the 25th of September 1806 when four large Frigates were captured, and Sir Samuel Hood lost his right arm. As recorded in the London Gazette of 4th October 1806", London 1806, mark of DS BS for Digby Scott and Benjamin Smith for Rundell, Bridge and Rundell.

These wine coolers were given in lieu of a £300 Patriotic Fund vase.

Presented in 1950 by Alexander Howden.

Pair of silver gilt wine coolers



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Presented in 1950 by Alexander Howden.

Pair of silver oblong tea caddies



A pair of George III silver oblong tea caddies with slightly domed half reeded flat hinged lids, both with detachable cast flowerhead and berry finials, engraved on the lid with the initial N surmounted by a Viscount's Coronet and the initial B surmounted by a Ducal Coronet, the bodies engraved on one side with Nelson's Coat of Arms and on the other with his Crests separated by his Viscount and Ducal Coronets, London 1801, mark of DP for Daniel Pontifex.

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Silver covered soup tureen

A George III silver covered soup tureen on stand, of oval form, the cover palm frond leaves emanating from a pineapple finial, with two loop handles cast with a man with fish tail blowing a nautilus shell, the body with cast and applied acanthus leaf handle mounts and laurel rim, applied with two oval escutcheons engraved with a Coat of Arms on one side and on the other inscribed "Lloyd's Coffee House, A Tribute of Gratitude and respect from his Country to the Memory of Captain John Harvey of his Majesty's Ship, The Brunswick, who gloriously fell in the Important Action of the 1st of June 1794 when the French fleet was defeated by the British fleet under of Command of Admiral Earl Howe, John Julius Angerstein Chairman", both escutcheons enclosed by naval flags, sword and symbols, with chased acanthus leaf basal band, on four intertwined dolphin supports, on a conforming elliptical stand, London 1795, mark of IS for John Schofield.



Silver gilt covered soup tureen

A George III silver gilt covered soup tureen on stand, of oval form, the cover palm frond leaves emanating from a pineapple finial, with two loop handles cast with a man with fish tail blowing a nautilus shell, the body with a tin liner, with cast and applied acanthus leaf handle mounts and laurel rim, applied with two oval escutcheons engraved with a Coat of Arms on one side and on the other inscribed "Lloyd's Coffee House, A Tribute of Gratitude and respect from his Country to the Memory of Captain John Hutt of his Majesty's Ship, The Queen, who gloriously fell in the Important Action of the 1st of June 1794 when the French fleet was defeated by the British fleet under of Command of Admiral Earl Howe, John Julius Angerstein Chairman", both escutcheons enclosed by naval flags, sword and symbols, with chased acanthus leaf basal band, on four intertwined dolphin supports; on a elliptical stand made to match in 1986 by William Comyns, London 1795, mark of IS for John Schofield.



Silver oval vegetable dishes

George III silver oval vegetable dishes, covers and liners, the domed covers with finials formed as a Chelengk issuing from a Naval Coronet, the dishes of plain oval form with cast acanthus scroll mounts with loop handles, the liners with gadrooned rims and slots for dividers, the covers engraved with the Copenhagen inscription, engraved twice with Nelson's Coat of Arms on the cover and twice with Nelson's Crest below a Viscount's Coronet on both the liners and the dishes, London 1801, mark of TR for Timothy Renou.

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Silver oblong entrée dishes

From the Nile Service: A set of three George III silver oblong entrée dishes and covers, with rounded corners and gadrooned rims, the detachable finials formed as a Chelengk issuing from a naval coronet, the covers engraved with the Nile inscription, the reverse engraved with Nelson's coat of arms, London 1800, mark of PS for Paul Storr.

One of the three dishes is on loan to the National Maritime Museum.

The Chelengk was a diamond encrusted order presented to Nelson by the Sultan of Turkey in gratitude for his services at the Battle of the Nile. It was stolen and a copy is now in the National Maritime Museum.



Silver circular breakfast dish

A George III silver circular breakfast dish, the domed cover with a stained ivory finial, the dish with reeded rim and handles, engraved twice on the cover with Nelson's coat of arms under a Viscount's coronet, engraved twice on the dish with Nelson's two crests surmounted by Viscounts' coronets, including handles, London 1794, mark of HC for Henry Chawner.

Henry Chawner was a good, but not top flight, manufacturing silversmith of his day, and was the sort of silversmith who one would expect a naval officer to patronise.

This dish is reputed to have been Nelson's favourite breakfast dish and to have been with him aboard HMS Victory at Trafalgar. Assuming it was made for Nelson in 1794 it would have most likely seen service through the most important of Nelson's campaigns. This has a distinct bearing on its value.



Silver oval tray

A George III silver oval tray with a gadrooned rim, gadrooned handles with acanthus mounts, on four gadrooned and scroll feet, centrally engraved with an Earl's Coronet flanked by Nelson's two crests, all above Nelson's coat of arms including the 'Trafalgar' shield, London 1805, mark of TH IC for Thomas Hannam and John Crouch II.



Pair of silver candlesticks

A pair of George II silver candlesticks in the Rococo style, with detachable shaped square drip pans and knopped stems, on shaped stepped square bases, engraved on the drip pans and bases with a script N beneath an Earl's coronet, London 1743, mark of JC for John Café.

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Porcelain hot water plate

Part of the Horatia Breakfast Service: An early 19th century Chamberlain's Worcester porcelain 'Old Japan' pattern hot water plate and cover, of circular form with a gilt loop handle and branch side handles, painted with flowers and foliage, both dish and cover with three oval escutcheons painted with a Viscount's coronet, a Ducal coronet and Nelson's crest with the San Josef, the base with partially erased printed mark for Chamberlain's Worcester, including handles.

Presented to Lloyd's by David Green in 1981.

Personal items

Nelson's combined knife and fork



An English high carat gold combined knife and fork of fiddle and thread pattern, with a steel knife edge set into the fourth tine of the fork, the back engraved with the initial N surmounted by a Baron's coronet, bearing a maker's mark only, possibly GA, used by Lord Nelson after the loss of his right arm at Santa Cruz on 24th July 1797.

Nelson was created a Baron after the battle of the Nile. This knife and fork is likely to have been made c.1800.

Given to Lord Nelson by Countess Spencer, wife of Earl Spencer, First Lord of the Admiralty.

Purchased from a bequest by G J Egerton.

Three badges for Nelson's Orders



The Order of the Crescent, on a blue ground.

The Order of the Crescent, on a gold ground, instituted by the Sultan Selim III of Turkey.

Order of St Ferdinand and Merit. Nelson was a Knight Grand Cross of the Sicilian Order of St Ferdinand.

The Order of the Crescent was created by Sultan Selim III in August 1799 specifically to honour Nelson on the first anniversary of the Battle of Nile. It was the first Turkish order to be instituted and the handful that were given out appear to have been awarded to British officers only. It was discontinued in 1807. Badges for this order are of extraordinary rarity. The Neapolitan Order of St Ferdinand and Merit was instituted by Ferdinand IV on 1st April 1800 to mark the restoration of his kingdom. The first recipients of the Grand Cross were the Tsar of Russia, General Suvorov and Nelson.

Presented to Lloyd's by Percy Hargreaves in 1931.

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Gold mounted oak toothpick box

A gold mounted oak toothpick box, possibly made shortly after Trafalgar, of rounded rectangular form, the 22 lugged hinged top carved in ivory against a blue / grey ground with ships of the line facing each other, presumably representing the Battle of Trafalgar, mounted with a glass top with gold shell corners, the reverse inscribed on a gold plaque: "This box is formed from a splinter of the Victory, commanded by Lord Viscount Nelson in the ever memorable engagement off Trafalgar, 21st October 1805, in which he fell! But not until his superior skill and most intrepid courage had completely overcome the combined fleets of France and Spain".

Reputedly owned by Lady Hamilton.

Presented by H E Fulford in 1939.



French late 18th century snuff box

A French late 18th century snuff box of rectangular form with canted corners, the lid inset with a later blue enamel plaque, attached to which is a slightly larger facing plaque inscribed in blue on a white ground: "To Lady Emma Hamilton In Memory of the Glorious first of June 1798, from Horatio Nelson, Love Conquers Might", the box all over engraved with stylised flowerheads and foliage.

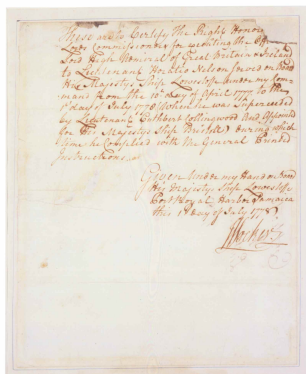
Presented to Lloyd's in 1944 by F W Clark.

Documents and letters

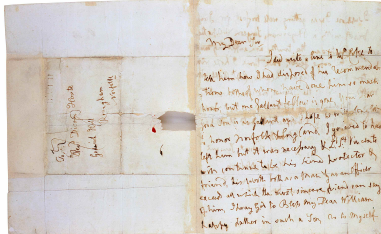
Document signed by Capt. Locker

A document signed by Captain William Locker, certifying the good conduct of Lieutenant Horatio Nelson on board HMS Lowestoffe from 1777 to 1778, written on board HMS Lowestoffe and Port Royal Harbour, Jamaica on 1st July 1778.

This was Nelson's first period of service as a lieutenant. As the certificate states "Collingwood succeeded him in this post. Captain Locker was Nelson's maternal uncle". This is among the earliest references to Nelson that is known.



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Letter to the Rev. Dixon Hoste

An autograph letter signed by Nelson to the Rev. Dixon Hoste, about Hoste's son William, whose care he had to give up when invalided home [written from Bath in the autumn of 1797].

A touching letter written in a still unsteady hand after losing his right arm, about Nelson's protégé, Hoste's son, William.

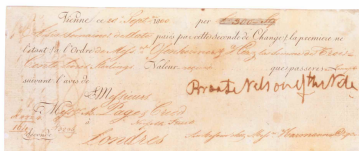
On loan from Lloyd's Register of Shipping, 25th October 1948.



Grant of Arms to Nelson

A Grant of Arms to Nelson, signed and sealed by Sir Isaac Heard, Garter King of Arms, creating him Baron Nelson of the Nile, issued on 20th December 1798, illuminated with his Arms with Chelengk, with duty stamp, pendant seal, in original moulded giltwood edge and later silk mounted and glazed frame.

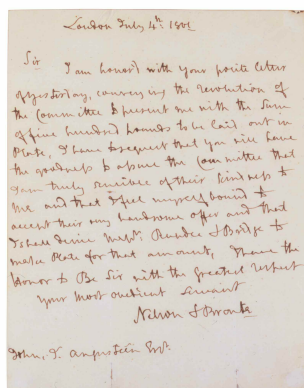
Nelson received the grant on 21st March 1800 and that day issued a memorandum to the fleet under his command stating that "By my Patent of Creation, I find that my Family name of Nelson has been lengthened by the words, 'of the Nile'. Therefore, in future my signature will be, 'Bronte Nelson of the Nile'."



Cheque signed by Nelson for £300

A cheque signed by Nelson for £300, drawn on Page & Creed [Nelson's Bankers], in Vienna on 20th September 1800.

From 21st March 1800 until the end of the year Nelson signed himself as here, Bronte Nelson of the Nile. This cheque was issued when Nelson was making his triumphant overland journey with the Hamilton's back to England after the battle of the Nile.



Letter to JJ Angerstein, 4 July 1801

A letter from Lord Nelson to John Julius Angerstein, dated 4th July 1801, signed by Lord Nelson, thanking the Committee for the gift of £500 to be laid out in plate.

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The Printed Resolutions

The Printed Resolutions of the Special General Meeting of the Patriotic Fund, held at Lloyd's on 3rd December 1805, following the battle of Trafalgar and Strachan's action after the battle, with a contemporary docket [by Captain Edward Codrington].

The twelve resolutions set out here were the basis for the following documents in the Patriotic Fund archive.

Presented by General Sir Alfred Codrington on 5th December 1931.



Logbook of HMS Euryalus

The logbook of HMS Euryalus: Kept by Frederick Ruckert, Master of HMS Euryalus, with entries initialled by the ship's Officers, at one point signed by the Captain, Henry Blackwood. The logbook covers the period 23rd May 1805 to "11th March 1806, the cover made of sailcloth inscribed Log Book. / H.M.S. Euryalus / 1805".

As regards detail and accuracy this is unquestionably the most important record of the battle of Trafalgar. John Terraine, in his book on Trafalgar, states 'it is fair to award the palm for the worst line-of-battle-ship log to Swiftsure, and for the best of all to the frigate Euryalus – another mark of the professionalism of her Captain, Henry Blackwood'.

Nelson's officers unsuccessfully tried to persuade him to transfer his flag from the Victory, which would be subjected to the heaviest of the enemy fire, to the Euryalus. As a frigate she did not take a direct part in the battle. By virtue of her position as a non-combatant on the flank of the main fleet she had an uninterrupted view of the battle. Towards the end of the battle she took Collingwood's ship, HMS Royal Sovereign, in tow. After the battle she flew the flag of Admiral Collingwood, who was by now Commander of the Fleet, and whose own ship had been damaged. As Warren R Dawson points out, this is the original, and the official logbook deposited at the Public Records Office is a copy of it, probably made by a junior officer.

Henry Blackwood was one of Nelson's most trusted officers, and was signatory to his last Codicil just before the battle. He was with Nelson on board the Victory until the first shots were fired. On Blackwood's departure back to the Euryalus, Nelson uttered the famous remark 'God bless you, Blackwood; I shall never speak to you again'.

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Portraits and busts

Full length portrait of Nelson



Painted in 1797 / 1798 following Nelson's attack on Santa Cruz de Tenerife, which can be seen burning in the background, and subsequently altered to show Nelson's Sicilian Order of St Ferdinand, the Turkish Order of the Crescent and the gold medal awarded by the King following the Nile victory.

Lemuel Francis Abbott (British, 1760 – 1803) and William Barnard (Mezzotint engraver).

Full length standing portrait of Lord Nelson.

Unsigned.

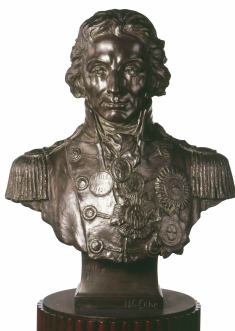
Oil on canvas.

Wax portrait bust of Nelson



A wax portrait bust of Lord Nelson, c. 1810, of buff uncoloured form, in Rear Admiral's full dress uniform with the ribbon of the Bath and three stars (Bath, Crescent and St Ferdinand), the reverse inscribed "Nelson and Pool fecit", on a turned wooden plinth.

Bronze portrait bust of Nelson



Charles Henry Fehr (British, 1867 – 1940).

Portrait bust of Lord Nelson in formal naval attire.

Signed on the plinth.

Dark brown patinated bronze sculpture.

On a limed oak wall bracket carved with foliage.

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Swords

Patriotic Fund Trafalgar sword



A Lloyd's Patriotic Fund presentation Trafalgar £100 sword and scabbard inscribed "from the Patriotic Fund at Lloyd's to Rich.d Grindall Esq.r Cap.tn of HMS Prince, for his meritorious services in contributing to the signal victory obtained over the combined fleets of France and Spain off Cape Trafalgar on 21st October 1805", the blade in gilt and blued steel, the scabbard in gilt metal with applied neo-classical decoration, the hilt of gilt metal and ivory with a gold thread tassel, made by Richard Teed of Lancaster Court, the Strand, London, together with a Patriotic Fund sword belt with gilt metal buckle and fittings, the belt made of blue morocco with gold braid embroidered with laurel garlands on a blue velvet ground, the fittings formed as lion masks, in a fitted mahogany case.

Presented to Lloyd's in 1931 by E S Lamplough.



City of London Trafalgar sword

A City of London presentation Trafalgar sword, the sword and scabbard cast and applied with silver gilt naval, neo-classical and mythological figures and motifs, inscribed "T M Hardy Navis Britannice Victoriæ Prefecto Trafalgari XX1 Oct.r MDCCCV Insigniter Merito Civitas Londinensis Hoc Testimonium Summæ Existinationis DD MDCCCVI", the sword with polished steel blade and ivory handle with silver gilt mounts, the scabbard of shagreen with silver gilt mounts, the silver hallmarked London 1806, mark of RT for Richard Teed, the scabbard engraved Prosser London, in a red morocco leather case, the interior fitted in blue velvet.

Thomas Masterman Hardy (1769 – 1839) was Captain of HMS Victory at the Battle of Trafalgar and was at Nelson's side when he died.

Vases

Patriotic Fund vase with base



A Lloyd's Patriotic Fund £100 vase, 39 cm high, inscribed "From the Patriotic Fund at Lloyd's to Major General Sir John Stuart Commanding in Chief His Majesty's Troops at the Battle of Maida in Calabria on the 4th of July 1806 in which the Pride of the Presumptuous Enemy was severely humbled and the superiority of the British Troops most gloriously proved, as recorded in the London Gazette extraordinary of the 4th of September 1806"; the base of square canted form with egg and dart border above four square panels, two of which reflect the cast and applied figures on the vase, the other two engraved with Coats of Arms within Naval victory iconography, on cast Sphinx feet, 27 cm high, 24 cm wide, 66 cm high overall, the vase London 1808, mark of BS for Benjamin Smith, the base London 1809, mark of BS IS for Benjamin and James Smith – approximately 362 oz.

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Patriotic Fund vase

A silver Lloyd's Patriotic Fund £100 vase, inscribed "In Memory of George Duff Esq., Captain of HMS Mars, who Nobly Fell in the Glorious Victory obtained over the Combined Fleets of France and Spain off Cape Trafalgar, on 21st October 1805. This vase is presented to Mrs Sophia Duff, his widow. From the Patriotic Fund at Lloyds", London 1808, mark of BS for Benjamin Smith for Rundell, Bridge & Rundell.

This vase was awarded on 7th January 1806.

Jewellery

Oval brooch



A gold, pearl and amethyst brooch of oval form, comprising an outer band of pearls enclosing an urn shape in amethyst and pearl, inscribed on the back "Presented by Lord Nelson to Lady Hamilton", containing a lock of hair behind glass on the reverse.

Presented to Lloyd's by G D Drayson in 1953.



Oval memorial brooch

A gold, diamond and enamel oval memorial brooch in the form of a garland, with two bands of diamonds flanking a black enamel band with gold lettering "Nelson.Oct.21.1805.Trafalgar". The centre of the brooch contains a lock of hair under an oval glass dome, and on the back is engraved "Helen Gorman, from Post Captain Jonas Rose, given him by Admiral Lord Nelson at the moment he received his fatal wound in the Battle of Trafalgar 21st October 1805".

A Nelson mourning ring



A Nelson mourning ring: a plain gold band inscribed "Palmarum Quireruit Ferat", with a black enamel plaque surrounded by a white enamel border containing a Viscount's Coronet surmounting the initial N and a Ducal Coronet surmounting the initial B, underneath both of which is inscribed "Trafalgar", the interior rim engraved "Lost to his Country 21st October 1805 aged 47".

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Nelson's Collar

Nelson's Collar of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath: A silver gilt and enamel Chain, composed of seventeen white enamel strapwork endless knot links alternating with nine Bath crowns and eight pink, green and white enamel thistle and rose emblems. The oval gold medal with the motto 'In Uno Tria Juncta' in the bezel, enclosing three crowns and the rose and thistle emblems of the Bath, the reverse all mounted in gold, London 1797, mark of TH with a pellet between, approximately 152cms long.

Presented in 1932 by Montague Evans and a group of friends.

Normally the insignia is returned to the Sovereign on the death of the recipient, but in two cases – Nelson and Wellington – the families were allowed to keep them.