

Lithograph proof, tear to lower margin skilfully repaired.

“A RAG AND FAMISH AFFAIR”

The Army and Navy Clubhouse C.O. Parnell and Alfred Smith, Architects.

Author
HAWKINS, G[eorge]

Publication date
[c.1851].

Publisher
Day & Son, Lithrs. To the Queen,

Publication place
London,

Physical description
Lithograph proof, tear to lower margin skilfully repaired.

Dimensions
Image: 370 by 510mm (14.5 by 20 inches). Sheet: 460 by 609mm (18 by 24 inches).

Notes
The Army and Navy Club was founded by Lieutenant-General Edward Barnes, a member of the Duke of Wellington’s staff and governor of Sri Lanka (then Ceylon). Originally intended for army members only, when Barnes asked Wellington to be a patron the Duke insisted on extending membership to the navy as well.

After several temporary locations, the club bought several houses in Pall Mall and St James's Square, for a larger, permanent base. After one abortive design which was deemed to be too small (an extra house was hastily bought) the club was built to a plan by C.O. Parnell and Alfred Smith, drawing on the Palazzo Corner della ca' Grande in Venice. Building began in 1848 and the club opened in 1851.

The Club is also known as The Rag, after a member returned from a night out to find inadequate refreshment awaiting him. Annoyed, he called the Club "a Rag and Famish affair", referring to a notoriously squalid gaming house, and the nickname stuck.

George Hawkins (1809-1852) was an British lithographer.

Bibliography

Provenance

Price: £2000

Inventory reference: 12479

© Daniel Crouch Rare Books Ltd | 2025