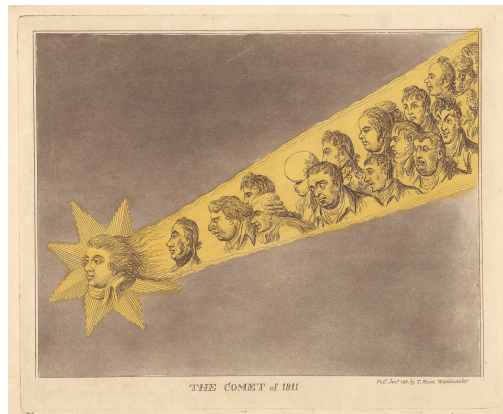




A SATIRE OF THE REGENCY QUESTION OF 1811

£450.00

The Comet of 1811.

Cartographer [Anonymous.](#)

Date 1811

Stock #: 26511

Publication: Westminster: Thomas Moon, 1811. Etching & aquatint with hand colour. 250 x 295mm.

Condition: A good example.

DESCRIPTION:

A comet with the head of the Prince Regent (later George IV), with its tail filled with the heads of members of the Opposition (including the Earl of Moira, Richard Brinsley Sheridan and Thomas Erskine) who were hoping to gain power as friends of the Prince.

At the end of 1810 George III had lapsed back into insanity, necessitating the Regency Act of 1811, after which the Prince of Wales took on all royal functions on behalf of his father until his death in 1820. This coincided with the appearance of the Great Comet of 1811 which was visible for around 260 days. This satire has been attributed on stylistic grounds to the great caricaturist James Gillray, who was also battling with insanity at that time.