



An atmospheric view of Vesuvius erupting

GALIANI.

Eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 1769.

London: Dr Robert John Thornton, 1808, Aquatint. 470 x 610mm.

£2,200

A night view of the eruption of Vesuvio from the south, with Naples on the left. Underneath is an eight-point key. The plate was aquatinted by Thomas Sutherland with the attribution 'Marchese Galiani Pinx.t.'. This is often assumed to be Ferdinando Galiani (1728-1787) an important figure of the Italian Enlightenment, who had written a study of volcanos, although he was an abbot rather than a marquis. The publisher is best known for his series of superb flower prints, 'Thornton's Temple of Flora'.

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