



NELSON'S STATE FUNERAL 1806 ~ or How to Bury a National Hero

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A detailed analysis of how London arranged this major event at a time of national crisis; the victory off Trafalgar, the invasion threat and the loss of Nelson during the last days of the Pitt government. The controversies and resolutions revealed.

Planning Phase

Crown and Parliament overcome all obstacles; the short days, winter colds and the lack of available time to respond to an eager public's expectations.

Lying in State

Three days of mob, mayhem and mourning at Greenwich.

Water Procession

The working Thames suspends all trade for an heraldic pageant.

Land Procession

Every viewpoint, at every window, taken in order to observe the solemn progress from Westminster to the City limits.

Evensong and Burial Service

A gruellingly long conclusion at the cathedral church of St Paul's.

Aftermath

Counting the cost, selling commemoratives and the desire for monuments.

Particular emphasis is given throughout to the craftsmen and women who, by their exertions, managed to complete the work in a relatively short space of time, involving everyone from scaffolders, carpenters, joiners and gravel-layers to feather-men, lace-makers, gilders and carvers. Each section concludes with short biographies of the main players in order of their appearance. It is illustrated throughout with black and white images and sixteen pages of full colour plates. Many of the illustrations are rare and will seldom have been seen before.