

The Embassy of Hyderbeck to Calcutta. From the Vizier of Oude, by way of Patna, in the year 1788 to meet Lord Cornwallis. (see note)

Engraved by Richard Earlom (1743–1822), after Johann Zoffany, R.A.

Mezzotint on laid paper with thread margins, 27 x 21 ins. Published by Robert Laurie & James Whittle, 12th July 1800, No. 53 Fleet Street, London.

A very fine early impression in a late nineteenth century giltwood and plaster frame with its original glass – a remarkable survival.

Together with the rare separately published key plate dated 12th July, 1800 (14.2 x 11 ins).

Johan Zoffany (1733–1810) was born near Frankfurt, training as an artist in Germany and Italy. In 1760 Zoffany moved to London, where he adapted brilliantly to the artistic environment and patterns of patronage.

Zoffany travelled to India in 1783, lured by the possibility of commissions from Indian rulers and wealthy members of the East India Company. He arrived in Calcutta later that year and was rapidly accepted into Society by prominent British families, painting many of their portraits, including that of the Governor-General, Warren Hastings.

NOTE: ceremonial and diplomatic processions were a conventional show of homage to the power of great rulers. Zoffany had encountered Hyderbeck on the road to Calcutta, bearing gifts from Oudh for the newly arrived Governor-General, Charles Cornwallis.

£9,750

