
British Museum (perjorative) Description: Political satire: an agitator wearing a woman's bonnet and dress gesturing in front of a burning building with a crowd waving knives and guns. May 1812.

Lord Byron presented the Luddites grievances emphatically in his first speech to the House of Lords on Feb. 27, 1812. He wrote:

"... In the foolishness of their hearts they imagined, that the maintenance and well being of the industrious poor, were objects of greater importance than the enrichment of a few individuals by any improvement in the implements of trade, which threw the workmen out of employment and rendered the labourer unworthy of his hire..."
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Object Type</strong></th>
<th>print; satirical print</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Museum number</strong></td>
<td>1990,1109.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title</strong></td>
<td>Object: Object: The Leader of the Luddites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description</strong></td>
<td>Political satire: an agitator wearing a woman's bonnet and dress gesturing in front of a burning building with a crowd waving knives and guns. May 1812  Hand-coloured etching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Producer name</strong></td>
<td>Published by: Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>School/style</strong></td>
<td>British</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Production date</strong></td>
<td>1812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Materials</strong></td>
<td>paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Technique</strong></td>
<td>etching  hand-coloured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dimensions</strong></td>
<td>Height: 325 millimetres  Width: 225 millimetres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Inscriptions

**Inscription type:** inscription  
**Inscription content:** Lettered with title, and with "Drawn from the life by an Officer / Pubd May 1812 by Messrs Walker & Knight, Sweetings Alley, Royal Exchange"

### Bibliographic references

**BM Satires / Catalogue of Political and Personal Satires in the Department of Prints and Drawings in the British Museum (undescribed)**

### Location

**Location:** Not on display

### Exhibition history

**2018 29 Jan-13 May, New York, MET, Thomas Cole's Journey: Atlantic Crossings**  

### Subjects

**satire**

### Acquisition name

**Purchased from:** Andrew Edmunds

### Acquisition date

**1990**

### Department

**Prints and Drawings**

### Registration number

**1990,1109.86**

### Conservation

**Mount**

**Mount**