

## Private collector in Hamburg

A French Prisoner-of-War Bone Ship Model of the **HMS Canopus**, c. 1810; England. Wood, bone, mesh netting, metal, textile, glass. Provenance:

- The Safra Family Collection
- Mallet, London, United Kingdom
- Private collection, Switzerland

**HMS Canopus** was an 80-gun French ship-of-the line called the **Franklin** until the 1 August 1798, when she was captured by the Rear Admiral Sir Horatio Nelson during the battle of the Nile.

She had a crew of 718, her weight was 2223 tone and her length was 197 feet. She was renamed **HMS Canopus** and saw action with the British fleet in the major operations against the French between 1798 and 1815. She was used as the flagship of Rear Admiral Sir Thomas Louis, Bart., and was commanded during the campaign by Captain John Conn, Captain Francis William Austen and later by Captain Thomas George Shortland from, 1807 and Captain Charles Inglis from 1809.

Rear Admiral Sir Thomas Louis died in board on the 17 May 1807 during the British action against Turkey in the Straits of the Dardanelles.

The fact that this model is named **HMS Canopus** would be accounted for by the fact that she was captured by the popular hero, Admiral Nelson.

The three-masted, second rate, eighty gun ship-of-the-line, is flying the White ensign and also the Union flag on a forward mast. She has a figure of a warrior holding a spear and shield as a figurehead and her stern board is decorated in relief with portrait bust with mermaids on either side. The three masts have standing and running rigging and two strings at the stern of retracting the guns. The model rests on an ornate wood and bone marquetry base with a balustrade and stands within a glass case.

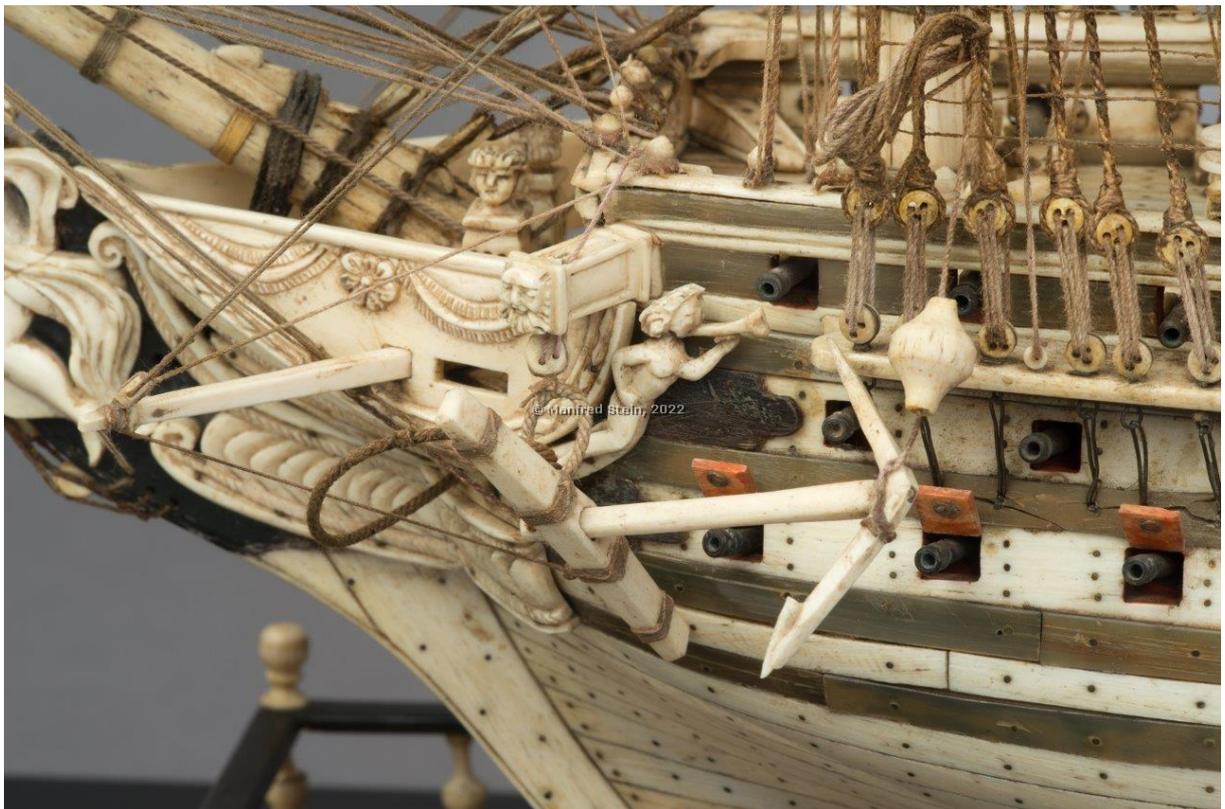
Case: Height 67 cm / 26.5 in, Width 94 cm / 37 in, Depth 38.5 cm / 15 in

Ship: Height 58 cm / 23 in    Width 81 cm / 32 in    Depth 28 cm / 11 in





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