



Louis Haghe 1806–1885

The Great Exhibition: Moving machinery,
c.1851-2

Watercolour

The Royal Collection ©
2005, Her Majesty Queen
Elizabeth II

Amazing clarity and detail have been achieved by using a combination of pencil and pen-and-ink with watercolour in this image.

The watercolour was reproduced as a chromolithograph print to demonstrate a new mechanized colour-printing process.

This image is a good example of how drawing has been a valuable means of recording historical events. The Great Exhibition was organized by Prince Albert to spread awareness of industrial progress and stimulate British industrial design. It was held in the Crystal Palace in Hyde Park in 1851, where six million people visited the exhibition to see over 100,000 exhibits from around the world.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Louis Haghe was from Belgium but moved to London at the age of seventeen. He became a full-time watercolourist and was a founder of the Watercolour Society in 1832.

He was commissioned to paint *The Great Exhibition: Moving machinery* and five others for Prince Albert to exhibit in the Great Exhibition of Products of Industry of All Nations in 1851.

STUDENT FOCUS QUESTIONS

- Do you think that Haghe has established a consistent light source for this artwork? Discuss.
- How has he created a sense of distance?
- To what effect has the artist used colour to establish a relationship between machine and people?

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

<http://search.famsf.org:8080/view.shtml?record=13002&=list&=1&=&=And>
<http://wwar.world-arts-resources.com/masters/h/haghe-louis-works.html>