

Naval War College Museum Announces New Exhibit Featuring the Life Mask of Admiral Lord Nelson

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The exhibit runs from 4 January to 30 September 2016

NEWPORT, RI—The Naval War College Museum is honored to be one of the few sites in the United States to host the life mask of Admiral Horatio Lord Nelson (1758-1805). Opening on 4 January 2016, *The Face of Nelson* occupies the museum's art gallery on the first floor.

The new exhibit features the 1798 life mask of Admiral Lord Nelson, currently on loan from the National Museum of the Royal Navy. Britain's most famous naval hero, Nelson was killed by a sharpshooter's bullet during his decisive victory over France and Spain at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. Already famous for his leadership and tactical victories during the Napoleonic Wars and earlier, Nelson's death triggered innumerable paintings, poems, stories, and biographies that enshrined him as an icon in the annals of maritime history.

One of only four known to exist, the mask was made in Naples, Italy, shortly after Nelson's famous victory at the Battle of the Nile. It presents us with an accurate, three-dimensional image of the face that many artists tried but struggled to capture on canvas. "So much of the artwork we have of Nelson portrays him in an idealized and romanticized light," said museum curator Rob Doane, "which is understandable considering his status as one of the most heroic and revered figures in naval history. This mask is unique because it humanizes Nelson for current generations." *The Face of Nelson* also features a selection of prints and paintings from the Naval War College Museum, the Navy Art Collection, the U.S. Naval Academy Museum, and the Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection at Brown University. The mask will be on exhibit until 30 September 2016.

You can follow what's new at the [Naval War College Museum just LIKE them on Facebook](#) and following their blog – [Soundings in Narragansett Bay's Naval History](#). One of nine official [Department of the Navy Museums](#), the Naval War College Museum collects, preserves, and exhibits artifacts and documents dating from the 1500s to the present day to interpret the naval history of Narragansett Bay, the Naval War College, and the history of naval strategy. Located in the historic Founders Hall built in 1820, the museum is open to the public although advance reservations are required. For more information, visit www.usnwc.edu/museum or call 401-841-4052.