## DAVID BLACKWOOD <br> THE ‘NICKERSON’ PASSING ON OUR STARBOARD QUARTER <br> Step-by-Step Production



## PRELIMINARY DRAWING

A full-scale graphic rendering is produced as a result of several small drawings (or studies), with an emphasis on the overall design.


## REVERSE TRACING

A reversed tracing is created from the full-scale design drawing to be used on the copper plate.


## WORKING PROOF NO. 1

The copper plate is covered with a ground (wax and asphaltum melted together), by brushing it on the heated plate. Using a sheet of black carbon paper, the tracing is transferred to the copper plate and a needle is used to draw through the traced lines on the wax ground. This needlework on the plate exposes the copper, which is then exposed to a mild solution of nitric acid. After 30 minutes in the acid, the first 'proof' is produced from the plate, showing all of the line work.

## Heffel



## WORKING PROOF NO. 2

Resin ground is applied over the sails and schooner shapes and the sky area is 'stopped out' with varnish, allowing 30 minutes of acid exposure to produce tone in the ship and sails. This tone-producing technique is referred to as 'aquatint.' For the third working proof (not pictured) the schooner shape is 'stopped out' and another resin ground is applied to etch the sky area.

## Heffel



## FINAL WORKING PROOF

The final working proof is produced after many print trials. The colour and how the ink will be wiped from plate are established during the inking process. Once this stage is complete, the edition is ready for printing.

## Heffel



## EDITION 1/50

The final step is to produce a numbered edition of 50 impressions, beginning at $1 / 50$ and continuing in numerical sequence.

