

## WELLINGTON MEETS HIS WATERLOO

At last year's South West gathering in Bristol (21 September 2024 – see *TML* 41) MLS member **Martin Gilbert** showed the attendees a very rare panorama of the funeral procession of Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington (1769-1852) that he had recently acquired. Wellington died in September 1852 and his state funeral was held in November that year. Most famous for his military leadership in the Napoleonic Wars, particularly the Peninsula War (1808-14) and the Battle of Waterloo (1815), Wellington was later British Prime Minister – although after his first Cabinet meeting he remarked: “An extraordinary affair. I gave them their orders and they wanted to stay and discuss them.” He was also godfather to Queen Victoria's third son Arthur, Duke of Connaught.

The panorama, by Samuel Henry Gordon Alken and George Augustus Sala, is about 5 ins (12.7 cm) high and over 66 ft (20 m) long. It was published by Rudolph Ackermann & Co. as a souvenir on 1 March 1853. The size and detail is quite extraordinary, reflecting the importance of the event. You can see more on: [www.youtu.be/5av4tU2o2WI](http://www.youtu.be/5av4tU2o2WI).



*Above: Martin laying out his panorama  
Below: The Mayor of London (top); Pursuivants at Arms and the Standard (middle); Band of the Royal Marines followed by guards (bottom)*



*(Top) The Duke's funeral car drawn by 12 horses;  
(Bottom) A regiment of Lancers (left) and Light Dragoons (right)*

