

Reprint of a page from Victorian publication on Thomas Rowlandson

Rowlandson's first documented tour of the Isle of Wight was made in 1784.

Travelling with his friend, *Henry Wigstead*, they crossed the *Solent* from *Lymington* to *Yarmouth* and returned via *Cowes* to *Portsmouth*. This reprint of Rowlandson's paintings from the 1784 tour was made circa 1891.



This late Victorian publication shows the lasting appeal of Rowlandson's work. Many of his drawings have been reprinted over the years, promoting the idea of the attractiveness of the *Isle of Wight* for a leisurely tour.



Six miles from Yarmouth - Alum Bay, the famous and brilliant coloured sands running down the rocks forms the most beautiful effects.



A general view of the Isle of Wight, looking from the extreme western point.



Cowes harbour, in the Isle of Wight (detail).

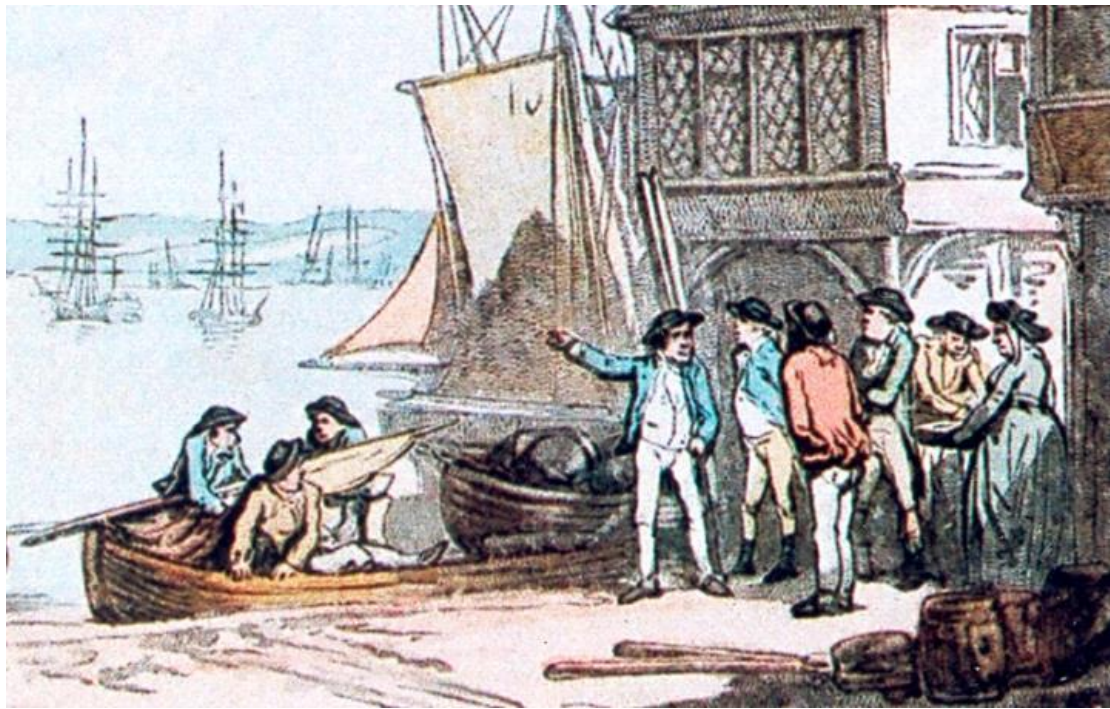
Text from the print (Victorian text not contemporary with Rowlandson's tours and paintings)

Yarmouth afforded our artist another subject for his study. Alum Bay, six miles distant, was found no less attractive, & the effects of its coloured sands suggested a picture. Among the rocks there, a picnic was enjoyed by the party, on the tableland, at the summit of a boulder, 30 feet high, the travellers "spread their table-cloth & dined on pigeon pie, etc" Thereby refreshed, Rowlandson went to work with renewed energy, and from the extreme western point, produced a "General View of the Isle of Wight"; this excursion was fruitful in drawings; we have a panorama of "The Needles"; another version - the "Needles Rocks", from the sea, "Saint Christopher's Rock; a stupendous white cliff, said to be 500 feet perpendicular to the sea" (wrote the artist), "Freshwater Bay", & a separate study "Rocks near Freshwater". The Isle of Wight series was completed, so far, by the life at Cowes; we have a drawing of the Bay, and finally their departure furnished a lively picture of "Cowes Harbour, here we hired a boat to carry us to Portsmouth."

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Cowes harbour, in the Isle of Wight – here we hired a boat to carry us to Portsmouth.

The original print is held at the County Records Office.