

## THE "AARON MANBY"

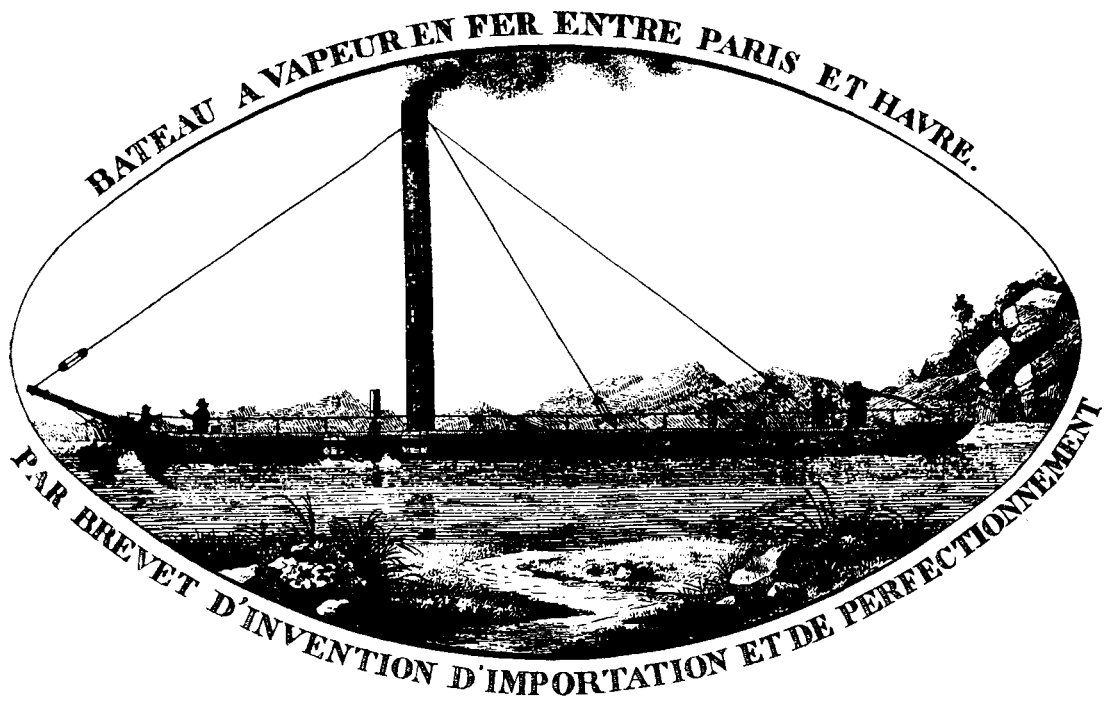
*Reproduced by courtesy of the Director of the Science Museum, South Kensington, London, and 'The Times'.*

The only known representation of the first steamship to be built of iron, the *Aaron Manby*, has been put on view in Gallery 41 on the second floor of the Science Museum, South Kensington. It has been given by Mr. John E. Manby, a descendant of her builder and eponym.

The intending visitor should perhaps be warned that this is not an imposing exhibit, for it is only a small engraving which forms part of a letter-heading of 1823—but it is of much interest as being the only surviving picture of a historic ship.

She was laid down in 1821, at Horseley Ironworks, near Tipton, Staffordshire, of which the owner was Aaron Manby. The ship was part of a scheme, entered into by him, his son Charles, and Captain (afterwards Admiral Sir) Charles Napier, to promote the use of iron steamers on the Seine. The hull was finished about the end of 1821, transported in sections to London, and put together in the Surrey Docks, Rotherhithe. The vessel was tried on the Thames between Battersea and Blackfriars on May 9, 1822, and shortly afterwards left for France, under the command of Napier, with a cargo of linseed and iron.

The *Aaron Manby*, while working on the Seine, ran aground several times, but always without damage. In 1830 she was sold, and in 1836 was in service on the Loire, at Nantes. She continued to work until 1842 and was broken up in 1855.



THE "AARON MANBY"