



SWEET WILLIAM AT FULL TILT

You met my best friend Sweet William in last fall's Fresh Ayer News. Now here he is in action! This puzzle, called "Full Tilt," shows him chasing birds from our garden.

Sweet William, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, demonstrates two of the breed's best traits, high energy and a protective nature. "Charlies," as

they're often called, are one of the most popular breed in England, and for good reason! Their gentle dispositions make them ideal companions.

Dog lovers – especially fans of Cavalier King Charles Spaniels – will enjoy putting together "Full Tilt" with their own best friends by their sides. Or give the puzzle

to someone special on your list this holiday season for a gift that will challenge them through the snowy days ahead.

Full Tilt is an example of what I can do with a picture of your pet. Send me your picture and I'll make you a puzzle that makes a perfect gift or conversation piece.



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Fresh Ayer News FALL 2001

THE ENCHANTING PORT OF TRIPOLI – A MYSTERIOUS CLASSIC



Signed simply J.V.O., "The Port of Tripoli" has a history that is as mysterious as the seascape itself. Little information is known about the artist and the painting, undoubtedly part of the work's appeal. But most fascinating about the painting is what these pieces of information suggest.

(Continued on inside cover)

My brother Rick and his wife, Claire, bought "The Port of Tripoli" at a Paris auction in 1976. When I photographed the painting to create one of my first puzzles, Rick shared with me the painting's mysterious history.

"Claire and I tried for some time to find more information on J.V.O. and on the work itself, but our efforts were unsuccessful," he said. However, what little they do know about the artist is fascinating.

J.V.O. was an artist of the Flemish School and painted "The Port of Tripoli" around 1650. He — or she — is described as an Orientalist, a term used to describe eighteenth and nineteenth century artists, including Eugene Delacroix and Jean-Leon Gerome, who flocked to the Middle East and North Africa to study these exotic locales.

J.V.O.'s journey to Tripoli, Libya, to record his artistic impressions occurred over a century before the Orientalist influx and can only be described as trail-blazing. But what brought him to "the Jewel of the Mediterranean," an unlikely destination for a seventeenth century artist? Could J.V.O. have predicted an artistic movement that would last for almost two hundred years? We can only wonder.

One of my first standard puzzles, "The Port of Tripoli" has been a popular selection over the years. Its muted tones and subtle changes in color — such as the slight differences in the hues of the sea and sky — will challenge even the best puzzler!



In past newsletters, I've covered the ways in which you can customize your puzzles with silhouette pieces, drop-out lettering, and puzzle shape. What you may not realize is that often it's possible to request the puzzle style.

The puzzle's style is actually a diagram of the puzzle's interlocking pieces. Of the several styles from which to choose, all are designed so that most pieces measure one to two inches in length and each puzzle includes a number of silhouette pieces. (Shown at right.)

Does a puzzle's style really matter? It sure does. Recently, I updated "Port of Tripoli" (cover story) with a new design. The new style makes for a much more challenging and interesting puzzle. My waterjet cutting machine enabled me to



fig. 1



fig. 3



fig. 2



fig. 4

achieve the design's high level of complexity, which would be impossible with an ordinary jigsaw.

When ordering a custom puzzle or a standard puzzle from my gallery, remember to request a

*figure 1. my original designs
figure 2. a hexagonal grid making triangular pieces
figure 3. small, sharp arcs next to long arcs
figure 4. large numbers of silhouette pieces*

style! It's one of the many specifications that make your puzzle a unique and truly personal expression.