JOHN BENNETT fine paintings

A Royal Navy first rate three-decker flying an Admiral of the Blue and a squadron off Gibraltar

ADAM CALLANDER

£ POA



REF: 374885

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Description

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ADAM CALLANDER1750-1817Scottish SchoolA Royal Navy first rate three-decker flying an Admiral of the Blue and a squadron off Gibraltar Oil on canvas91.5 x 106 cms36 x 413/4 inchesOverall framed size 103.7 x 119.2 cms 407/8 x 467/8 ins The third son in a family of seventeen children, Adam Callander was born in 1750 in the Craigforth neighbourhood of Stirling, Scotland and his father John (d.1789) was an antiquary and lawyer. It is not known where he trained as an artist although there is speculation that an acute studying of the Old Masters, often from prints, and subsequent copying of them, may have meant that he was self-taught. Although he had a career as a landscape and marine painter, he continued to reproduce the work of some British artists such as the portraitist Sir Joshua Reynolds and the Dutch Golden Age painters of the 17th century.His early work was views of Scotland but by 1780 he was living in London, remaining there until his death in New Cavendish St on 5th August 1817. His first recorded address was at 3, Southampton Row, Paddington and then from 1781 to 1788 at 59 Queen Anne St and then 31 Tichfield St followed by 1 New Cavendish St. His first exhibit at the Royal Academy, A view of Stirling Castle, a drawing was in 1780 and this was followed by a further fifty works at the R.A. up until 1811 and ten at the British Institution from 1806 until 1811, with watercolours and drawings forming the majority of these. He was particularly drawn to depicting the light at the beginning and end of the day, moonlight and for the atmospheric effect of fog and of the sun as it started to break through it. Titles such as Sun breaking through a fog; The effects of a fog; The effects of the clearing away of a fog with part of Shakespeare’s cliff; Effect of moon rising; A sunrise and Morning with cattle and figures are just a few examples of this passion to capture the light in his paintings.Apart from painting Scottish scenes, Callander painted in England, Wales and Ireland and there are scenes overseas such as in Italy, India, Cape of Good Hope, St Helena, Tenerife and the West Indies. The last of these depicted the Paraclete Plantation on Grenada and was produced in 1789. There was a set of eight painted in gouache and watercolour and these are now in Paxton House near Berwick-on-Tweed, Scotland. One shows the view looking east from the plantation house and includes a stepped water feature which was not a type of grandiose folly typical of the 18th century but had a practical purpose in that the cut sugar cane could be floated downstream to the processing sheds lower down.Callander, besides being an artist producing his own subject matter, also made copies of famous paintings, probably on a commission basis for clients. One of these was The missing bird, after Le Nain, painted in 1789. Judy Egerton, writing in Hogarth’s Marriage A-la Mode, states that “…the wide range of other copies whose work Callander is known similarly to have copied…Prolific copyist though he was, Callander was no forger”. She is writing specifically in this piece about t...

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