JOHN BENNETT fine paintings

A view of Plymouth from Mt Edgcumbe Park with Devil's Point and Drake's Island

RICHARD HENRY NIBBS

Sold

London, England

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REF: 374759

Height: 76 cm (29.9")

Width: 127 cm (50")

Framed Height: 99.5 cm (39.2")

Framed Width: 150.5 cm (59.3")

Description

Oil on canvas, signed and dated 88

A painter of marines, sea battles, landscapes and genre R H Nibbs was born in Brighton and apart from a brief period when he sent Royal Academy exhibits from London addresses in Lambeth Walk and Walworth in 1841/2, spent his whole life there at residences in Howard Place, Mount Zion Place and Buckingham Place. He can be regarded as a Sussex artist and there was a retrospective exhibition of his work held at Brighton Polytechnic Gallery in 1974.

He was educated at a school in Worthing where the headmaster was the son of the watercolourist Henry Fryer Tidey N.W.S. (1814-1872) and it is possible that this connection inspired the young Nibbs. However it was as a musician that he started his working life and he was a professional cellist in the orchestra of the Theatre Royal in Brighton having studied violin and cello at Worthing and then teaching the instruments there.

In 1840 he inherited enough money to enable him to pursue his love of painting and although he was largely self-taught, he had a keen eye for composition and he exhibited his first work at the Royal Academy in 1841. He concentrated on depicting the sea and littoral of Kent through to Devon with the exception of some Thames views in Berkshire and London and also travelled in France, Germany and Holland between 1850 and 1860. His interest in the sailing craft and nature of continental subjects elicited an article in the Art Journal regarding his British Institution exhibit in 1860 Early Morning on the Coast, Bosham, Sussex which said that: "The subject looks infinitely Dutch; it is difficult to believe that on the Sussex coast there is anything so primitive."

Nibbs exhibited forty-two works at the Royal Academy, ninety-six at the Royal Society of British Artists in Suffolk Street, thirty-eight at the British Institution and twenty-nine at other institutions and venues. Examples of his subject matter include: H.M.S. Vengeance; The landing of Queen Victoria at Brighton Chain Pier in 7th September, 1843; Battle of the Nile; The Battle of Trafalgar, 21st October, 1805; Crimean War: First shot of the War, 6th April 1854; Lord Mayor's Day; Bodiam Casle, Sussex; Mill at Dell-Quay, Chichester Harbour, Sussex; Brighton Hog-boats putting to sea; In the Weald of Sussex; Old Drawbridge on the Ouse at Barcombe, East Sussex; The Thames at Greenwich; The ship 'Essex' near icebergs; Hay barge off Sheerness and On the Rhine, near Caub.

He also illustrated his own publications and in 1850 published Marine Sketch Book of Shipping Craft and Coast Scenes followed by The Churches of Sussex in 1851 and Antiquities of Sussex in 1874.

Examples of his paintings can be seen in Brighton and Hove Museum and Art Galleries (twenty works); National Maritime Museum (six paintings); Victoria and Albert Museum; Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne; National Museum of the Royal Navy, Portsmouth; Britannia Royal Naval College; Sir Max Aitken Museum, Isle of Wight; Buxton Museum and Art Gallery; Hull Museum and Atkinson Art Gallery Collection, Southport.

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2020 marks the four hundredth anniversary of the departure of the Mayflower from Plymouth. The vessel, about 100 feet in length and square-rigged, had depar...

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