JOHN BENNETT fine paintings

“Pozzuoli, looking towards Baiæ – Istria in the distance”

CLARKSON FREDERICK STANFIELD

Sold



REF: 374850

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Description

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CLARKSON FREDERICK STANFIELD R.A.; Hon.R.S.A.1793 – 1867English School "Pozzuoli, looking towards Baiæ - Istria in the distance" 91.5 x 122 cms 36 x 48 inchesOverall framed size 115 x 148 cms 451/4 x 581/4 insExhibited Royal Academy 1842 No. 313 We are grateful to Pieter Van de Merwe, formerly curator at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, for supplying us with this further information:“You clearly have the title and the 1842 RA exhibition date (no. 313) but as often in Graves there's a misprint, sometimes his error but often from the original catalogues and the last words should be ...Ischia in the distance': i.e. the island of Ischia, not Istria - the town that gives its name to a region on the coast of modern Croatia. The RA practice seems to have been for submitting artists to put their names and picture titles on labels on the back, with in-house staff then copying them for the catalogue draft and - hardly surprisingly given crabby handwriting - occasionally misreading. I have only seen one such previous label of Stanfield's and by sheer chance long ago after a King Street dealer reframed a fine Stanfield Dutch oil of the 1840s and had the heavier and damaged original frame still in the gallery with his MS label on the reverse and about to disappear with it.T.G. Fonnereau's journal of their long tour (Aug 1838- March 1839) records that they went down to Naples and vicinity, but it’s clear that Fonnereau went to Pozzuoli on his own, with other company, just after Stanfield went off by boat on 17 November 1838 for independent sketching at and around Amalfi (at least a couple of examples of the results are in the BM). He was probably there sometime later in the month before he went out to Ischia where he got trapped in miserable weather on his own over Christmas: it hardly looks like November weather but it’s clear from TGF's other Naples area notes that there were a lot of bright and good days during that period.”

This notable Victorian marine and landscape painter, who worked in both oils and watercolours often on a large scale, was praised by both John Constable and the eminent art critic John Ruskin for the artist’s portrayal of clouds and sea calling him the “…leader of our English Realists…” and the latter also thought him the nearest rival to J M W Turner as a delineator of cloud forms.He was born in Sunderland on 3rd December 1793 and named Clarkson after the slave trade abolitionist Thomas Clarkson who was a friend of his father. He has been called William Clarkson Stanfield in many art reference books but this is erroneous and he only ever went after the name Clarkson Stanfield. His father, James Field Stanfield, was of Irish descent who, at the time of his son’s birth was keeping a spirit merchant’s shop but previously he had been a seaman, actor and author of prose and verse. His mother was Mary Hoad who had been an actress and accomplished artist.In 1806, the thirteen year old was apprenticed to a heraldic coach-painter but in 1808 he went to sea i...

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