JOHN BENNETT fine paintings

The Falls of Tivoli with the Temple of Vesta

WILLIAM WYLD R.I.

Sold

London, England

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REF: 360368

Height: 91.7 cm (36.1")

Width: 120.3 cm (47.4")

Framed Height: 103 cm (40.6")

Framed Width: 140.5 cm (55.3")

Description

WILLIAM WYLD R.I. 1806 – 1889 English School The Falls of Tivoli with the Temple of Vesta Oil on canvas, signed 91.7 x 120.3 cms321/8 x 473/8 insOverall framed size 103 x 140.5 cms
40½ x 553/8 ins

M H Grant, in his Dictionary of English Landscape Painters, writes of William Wyld that: "A notable painter who passed his life in Paris, where he influenced greatly the French artists around him."

Wyld was born to a family of comfortable means and influence having been well-to-do merchants for several generations. A young uncle, who had instilled an interest in painting in the child William, left his artist's materials to him upon his premature death. The six year old displayed a precocious and prodigious talent for drawing but it was clear that his family had a diplomatic service career in mind for him as he was sent to Calais in 1826 to become secretary to the British Consulate, working under Lord Granville.

The posting proved to be fortuitous for Wyld as he met there the French watercolourist and teacher of Richard Parkes Bonington, François Louis Thomas Francia. Francia, who had come to London as an émigré and had exhibited at the Royal Academy while he was resident there. Francia was a great admirer of the important English painter Thomas Girtin and agreed to take on Wyld as a pupil. However, what had initially seemed like having the best of both worlds for Wyld, came to an abrupt end when the statesman and family friend George Canning, who had secured the Calais posting for him, died in 1827.

It seemed as if Wyld would have to return to England but a merchant friend, who was a collector of Bonington's works, enabled Wyld to become involved in the champagne business exporting to England from Épernay. This tended to be a seasonal activity with long periods with little to do and Wyld travelled around northern France painting as he went and meeting the important painter Horace Vernet. This way of life continued until 1833 during which time he became very knowledgeable about wine but also made an important number of contacts with the French aristocracy.

One such contact who became a friend was the Baron de Vailar and Wyld travelled with him to Algiers where the Baron bought a house. Wyld was just about to leave after six months in the country when he heard that Vernet was on board a warship lying at anchor in the harbour which had stopped in the recently conquered country while on its way to Rome. Wyld managed to get aboard and was immediately recognised by Vernet who insisted that Wyld accompany him to Italy so that the latter could fulfil his ambition to become a painter. Vernet secured the young artist commissions from patrons that he knew and Wyld began to produce Orientalist paintings. He remained in Rome for six months before embarking on a journey through Italy on foot, sketching as he went, before returning to Paris where he established himself in a studio producing Venetian scenes and Orientalist paintings before winning a Médaille d'Or at the 1839 Paris Salon - his debut at this ve...

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