JOHN BENNETT fine paintings

Zante; Cephalonia. Zakynthos; Kefallonia

VENETIAN SCHOOL, 17TH CENTURY

Sold



REF: 374869

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Description

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VENETIAN SCHOOL, 17TH CENTURYZante; Cephalonia. Zakynthos; Kefallonia Oil on canvas, inscribed, a pair69 x 119 cms271/8 x 427/8 inchesOverall framed size 77.7 x 127.8 cms 303/8 x 503/8 inches The Venetian Empire’s possessions in the Ionian Sea constituted Cephalonia, Paxos, Ithaca, Zakynthos, Levkas, Kithira and Corfu. Jan Morris, in The Venetian Empire; A Sea Voyage, writes of Zakinthos (Zante) that: “…after 1500 (it) took the place of Methoni as principal port of call on the eastern route…and on it the Venetians built what is said to have been the loveliest of all their colonial towns, a perfect set-piece around a bay: hardly a stone remains of it, for it was utterly destroyed in the great earthquake of 1953. Cephalonia had a great castle and in later years a dear little opera house, visited frequently by companies from Venice…All these islands remained Venetian until the fall of the Republic in 1797, and the Venetian style was deeply imprinted on them. Venice kept these islands western islands, during the long Turkish domination of Greece, and to this day the Greek patois of the mainland is full of Turkish idioms, but the patois of the Ionians is thick with Italianisms.Throughout the Ionians Venetian rule was to be remembered, all in all, affectionately. It had kept them from the Turks, it had respected the Orthodox faith, it had brought periods of prosperity, it had given the islands the most beautiful towns in Greece. But most important of all, more by diffidence than design it had preserved in trust the Hellenism of the islands… after the fall of Crete, artists, scholars, and thinkers came from every part of the Greek world came to the Ionians...these islands were the bastions of Helleneism, the place where the Greek dimension was kept in being.”Zante, also known as Zacinto, Zakynthos and Zacinthos and Cephalonia (Cefalonia, Kephalonia, Kefalonia, Kefallonia, Kefalinia and Kephallenia) were part of the Venetian Empire that controlled much of the Mediterranean. The former lies about 20 kilometers west of the Greek mainland and is the third largest of the Ionian Islands with an area of just over 400 square kilometers. The latter is about 15 kilometers to the north of its neighbour and is the largest in the group and the sixth largest in Greece. Its name derives from pre-Mycenaean times and in mythology it comes from Zacynthus, grandson of Zeus and Helectra and the son of Dardanus, a renowned Arcadian chief who founded Troy. In some of the oldest Greek myths it was said that it was a favourite resting place for Apollo who could sit in the shade playing his lyre and eulogising the island’s beauty in song.The island features in Homer’s the Iliad and the Odyssey which is where the legend of the connection to Dardanus appears. This influence was supplanted by King Arkesios of Kefalonia before being conquered by the Ithacan Odysseus. Zakynthos is again mentioned by Homer in the Catalogue of Ships which were involved in the Trojan War sided with the Greeks. Homer goes on to reference twenty Zakynthos nobles among the 108 who were suitor...

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