

STEPHEN ONGPIN FINE ART



James HOLLAND (Burslem 1799 - London 1870)

A Wooded River Landscape, Wales

Pencil and watercolour, heightened with bodycolour, on buff paper.

Signed with monogram JH in pencil at the lower left.

Signed again with initials and dated JH 16th. Octr. 1850 in pencil at the centre right.

375 x 528 mm. (14 3/4 x 20 3/4 in.)

Dated the 16th of October 1850, the present sheet was done during Holland's 1850 tour of North Wales, when the artist is known to have visited the villages of Betws-y-Coed and Bedgellert in Snowdonia. A large watercolour by Holland of a wooded valley in North Wales, of similar dimensions to the present sheet and dated the day before, appeared at auction in 1999.

Exhibitions

London, Martyn Gregory, An Exhibition of Early English Watercolours and Drawings, 1988, no.69.

Artist description:

Born in Staffordshire, James Holland was apprenticed as a painter in a factory in Stoke-on-Trent at the age of twelve, painting flowers on pottery. In 1819 he settled in London, where he continued to work as a pottery painter and also produced watercolours of natural history subjects, but at the same time began to focus on landscapes. By 1824 he had a floral still life painting exhibited at the Royal Academy. At the beginning of the 1830s he began to travel extensively around Europe, and soon established a reputation for paintings and watercolours of Continental views, and in particular for depictions of Venice. Apart from Italy, Holland also travelled to France, Portugal, Switzerland, Austria and the Netherlands. Holland joined the Old Water-Colour Society in 1835, and exhibited nearly two hundred works there over the course of his career. While his watercolours of the 1830s show the particular influence of Richard Parkes Bonington, by the following decade his style had become looser and he began to produce works extensively heightened with bodycolour. Holland exhibited regularly at the Royal Academy, showing both paintings and watercolours, as well as the Society of Painters in Water-Colours, the British Institution and the Society of British Artists. The contents of the artist's studio were dispersed at auction a few months after his death in 1870.