

Edouard TRAVIES (Doullens 1809 - Paris 1876)

A Eurasian Hoopoe (Upupa epops), a Blue-Crowned Motmot (Momotus coeruliceps) and a Groove-Billed Ani (Crotophaga sulcirostris)

Watercolour, pen and brown ink and wash, with framing lines in pencil.

Signed Edouard Travies [partially cut off] in the lower margin.

170 x 100 cm. (6 3/4 x 4 in.)

Literature:

Achille Richard, Oeuvres complètes de Buffon, Paris, 1838, Vol. VII.

Artist description:

Among the finest natural history draughtsmen of the 19th century in France, Edouard Traviès de Villers was a gifted watercolourist and illustrator, and exhibited at the Paris Salons between 1831 and 1866. Best known for his ornithological watercolours, his activity in this field culminated in seventy-nine magnificent illustrations for his book Les oiseaux les plus remarquables par leurs forms et leurs couleurs, published in Paris and London in 1857. Traviès also illustrated other works of natural history, such as Types du règne animal: Buffon en estampes; a work intended for children that appeared in 1864. Traviès was further known for his paintings and watercolours of dead game, depicted hanging from a nail on a wall in a sort of trompe-l'oeil effect; indeed, he was one of the first 19th century French artists to develop this theme, which had been established in the previous century by such artists as Jean-Baptiste Oudry.

These watercolours by Edouard Traviès were once part of the exceptional collection of French ornithological watercolours of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries assembled in the 1920s and 1930s by

the French industrialist and bibliophile Marcel Jeanson (1885-1942). Several of these watercolours were used to illustrate Achille Richard's Oeuvres complètes de Buffon, published in Paris in 1834, 1838 and 1845.