

Poitiers from the South-east

William Callow

Sold



Description

William Callow (1812-1908)
Poitiers from the South-East

Inscribed verso: View of Poitiers/South of France
Watercolour over pencil heightened with bodycolour, scratching out and stopping out
26.9 by 38.1 cm., 10 ½ by 15 in.

This studio work is based on a sketch drawn on his first sketching tour, to the south of France, in the summer of 1836 (see note to no.55). His diary for 23rd and 24th June records:

' June 23 - ...after walking for four and a half leagues we reached Poitiers, well known for its battlefield. It is an interesting town, containing many curiosities, including the remains of a Roman amphitheatre. Visited the very fine cathedral of St. Pierre and the church of St. Jean. As it was the veille of the latter saint, bonfires were lit by the priests in the town. Had a beautiful view from the height which is on one side of the town.

June 24 - Made some sketches in the morning, and left Poitiers in the afternoon, and, passing through the village of Crontille, with a very pretty country all the way, arrived at Vivonne at nine o'clock' (see William Callow R.W.S. F.R.G.S. - An Autobiography, edited by H.M. Cundall, 1908, p. 41).

This is a view of Poitiers from across the river Clain. It shows the Eglise Notre-Dame la Grande to the left with the Eglise Sainte- Radegonde to the right.