The Rialto Bridge from the Albergo Leone Bianco, Venice

William James Müller

Sold



REF: 2642

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Description

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William James Müller (1812-1845)
The Rialto Bridge from the Albergo Leone Bianco, Venice

Inscribed lower right: The Rialto/Fr.m Lion Bianco/Oct.r 1834
Pencil
27.8 by 42.8 cm., 10 ¾ by 16 ¾ in.

Provenance:
Bought at Agnew's, February 1980;
By descent until 2022

Exhibited:
London, Thos. Agnew & Sons, 107th Annual Exhibition of Watercolours, February 1980, no.172 as by Clarkson Stanfield

This impressive drawing dates from Müller's seven month tour of the Continent in 1834-5 in the company of his fellow artist George Arthur Fripp (1813-1896). They arrived in Venice on 29th September and stayed for two months hiring a gondolier Jacobo, to take them round the city. An early biography of Müller claims that `To visit Venice had been the goal of Müller's amibition for months, if not years. Most thoroughly did he enter heart and soul into the wondrous time-worn beauty of this floating city' (N. Neal Solly, Memoir of the Life of William Müller, 1875, p.39).

An oil of this subject by Müller, based on the present sketch, was sold at Sotheby's on 26th March 2004, lot 89. Turner stayed in the Albergo Leone Bianco and painted an oil of this view now in the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

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