

Barmouth Vale from the banks of Cader Idris, 1803

Cornelius Varley



Description

Cornelius Varley (1781-1873)
Barmouth Vale from the banks of Cader Idris, 1803

Signed lower left: CVarley 1803 and inscribed with title
Watercolour over pencil
29.5 by 46.1 cm., 11 ½ by 18 in.

Provenance:
With P. & D. Colnaghi, where bought 28th March 1973;
By descent to the present owner

Literature:
P. & D. Colnaghi, Drawings and Watercolours by Cornelius Varley, exhibition catalogue, 1973, no.90, ill.
plate XXXVII

Exhibited:
London, P. & D. Colnaghi, Exhibition of Drawings and Watercolours by Cornelius Varley, 21st February to
16th March 1973, no.90

Largely self-taught as an artist, Cornelius Varley began drawing in about 1800, when he accompanied his elder brother John into the countryside, exploring and recording the natural world. Previously, Cornelius had trained as a lensmaker, with his uncle Samuel, a watch and instrument maker and these dual careers in science and art continued throughout Cornelius' life. Cornelius undertook his first trip to North Wales during the summer of 1802 with his brother John and the architect and geologist, Thomas Webster. The success of this visit inspired him to return the following year, when he travelled with fellow artist, Joshua Crisall.