The Ferry at Goodrich Castle on the Wye, South Wales

John `Warwick' Smith

Sold

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Description

John `Warwick' Smith (1749-1831)
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Inscribed on part of old mount: July 1788/View of The Ruins of Goodrich Castle on the near approach to them - Taken from the Wye near the Horse Ferry at Goodrich/The Founder of this Castle is unknown - it belonged to Will.m Marshall Earl of Pembroke in the reign of King John. It came after.ds in the reign of Hen.ry 3d W.m de Valence Earl of Pembroke. The Earls of Shrewsbury pofsefsed it/in the reign of Edward 3.d & in latter periods it devolved to the Earls of Kent in the reign of James the 1st
Watercolour over pencil heightened with touches of bodycolour
12.8 by 21.2 cm., 5 by 8 ¼ in.

Smith visited Wales at least thirteen times between 1784 and 1806. He spent time in South Wales in June and July 1788. He was at Crickhowell (15th July), Llanthony Priory (17th) and Caerleon (19th).

Below the ruins of Goodrich Castle is the ferry on which passengers would be pulled across the river using a rope. Nearby is the ferry house where visitors could get light refreshments. This view was depicted by John Varley in 1833 (see Julian Mitchell, The Wye Tour and its Artists, 2010, no.5, p.92, ill.). A watercolour of nearby Wilton castle by Smith, also dated July 1788, is in the National Library of Wales (see Mitchell, op.cit., no.3, ill. p.91).

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