

Chudleigh Rock, Devon

Louisa Heath Merivale, Nee Drury



Description

Louisa Heath Merivale, née Drury (1787-1873)
View of Chudleigh Rock, Devon

Inscribed verso: View of Chudleigh Rock. Devon July 17th 1805
Pen and grey ink over traces of pencil
17 by 26.4 cm., 6 ½ by 10 ¼ in.

Provenance:

Given by the artist to her daughter Frances Angel Merivale, 17th November 1869;
By descent to Miss A. Merivale by October 1960;
With Thos. Agnew & Sons, March 1961 as by Francis Towne;
By descent until 2023

Literature:

Richard Stephens, Catalogue Raisonné of Francis Towne (1739-1816), online (www.francistowne.ac.uk),
part of FT881c

Exhibited:

London, Agnew's, 88th Annual Exhibition of Water-Colour Drawings, March 1961 as by Francis Towne

Louisa Heath Drury was the daughter of Joseph Drury, headmaster of Harrow School between 1785 and 1805. She married John Herman Merivale on 10th July 1805, a week before the present drawing was executed.

The Merivale family, a wealthy nonconformist family from Exeter, were closely connected with Francis Towne. Various members of the family were travelling companions, friends, pupils and patrons of the artist's and Louisa's husband, John Herman Merivale was the beneficiary of Towne's estate, inheriting the most of the elder artist's work.

This was part of an album of drawings by Louisa Drury bought by Agnew's in 1960 as by Francis Towne. The album was inscribed 'L.H. Drury Sept 15 1803' and 'Louisa Heath Merivale July 1805'.