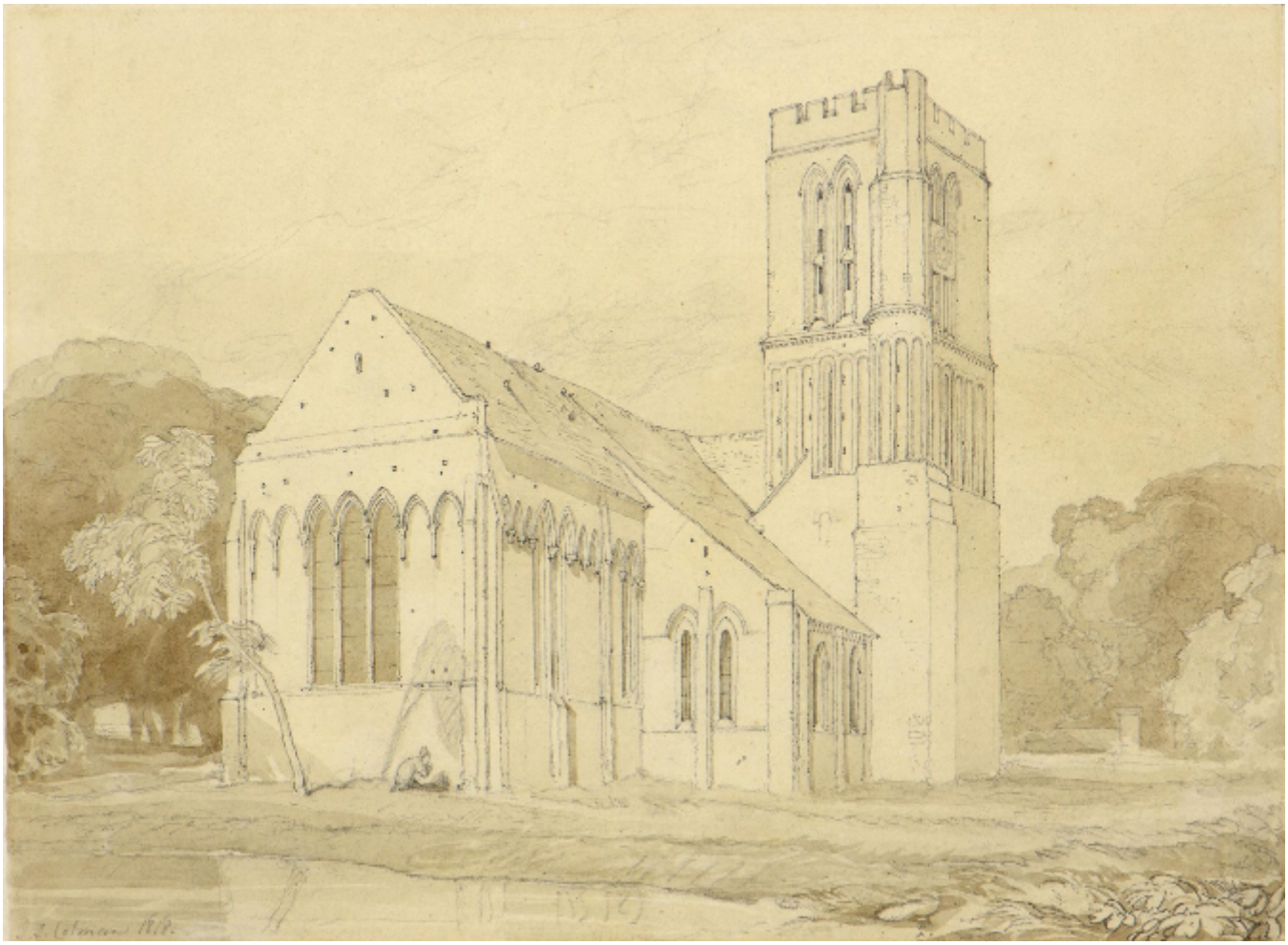
The Church of St Pierre at Hermanville-sur-Mer, Normandy

John Sell Cotman



Guy Peppiatt Fine Art Ltd.
Riverwide House, 6 Mason's Yard, Duke St. St. James's, London, SW1Y 6BU
T: 020 7930 3839 M: 07956 968 284 E: guy@peppiattfineart.co.uk www.peppiattfineart.co.uk

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Description

John Sell Cotman (1782-1842)
The Church of St Pierre at Hermanville-sur-Mer, Normandy

Signed lower left: J.S. Cotman 1818 and inscribed on border under mount: North east View of the Church of Hermonville near Caen
Brown washes and pencil
image 24.8 by 34.2 cm., 9 ¾ by 13 ½ in.

Provenance:
The Rev. F.N. Vavassour;
With P. & D. Colnaghi, London

Cotman visited Normandy three times to find subject matter for a planned series of etchings entitled Architectural Antiquities of Normandy with the help of his patron Dawson Turner. His first trip lasted from 20th June to 10th August 1817 with a second from 20th June to 7th September 1818 with the final one from 26th July to 10th October 1820. The first of the four instalments was published in early 1820 with the final one issued in the middle of 1822. For more on Cotman's Normandy tours, see Timothy Wilcox, Cotman in Normandy, exhibition catalogue, 2012 and Miklos Rajnai, John Sell Cotman - Drawings of Normandy in Norwich Castle Museum, 1975.

Hermanville-sur-Mer is several miles north of Caen on the Normandy coast. Cotman must have visited the town during his stay in Caen between 24th July and 14th August 1818. This drawing was not engraved for Cotman's Antiquities series.

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