Westminster Abbey from Carlton House Terrace, London

Peter De Wint

Sold

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Description

Peter de Wint (1784-1849)
Westminster Abbey from Carlton House Terrace, London

Inscribed verso: Westminster Abbey
Watercolour over traces of pencil
31.3 by 48.9 cm., 12 ¼ by 19 ¼ in.

Provenance:
Possibly the Artist's studio sale, 25th May 1850, lot 347, bought by Vokins for Lady Clive;
With Thos. Agnew & Sons, London, before 1936;
Eric William Towler, Glympton Park, Woodstock (d.1988);
By descent until 2022

Westminster Abbey rising over its surroundings, clearly inspired de Wint and there are several watercolours by the artist showing the abbey from various view points, including towering above the marshy surroundings of Tothill fields (British Museum, London), as well as from St James's Park (Eton College). The present view depicts the Abbey from the recently completed Carlton House Terrace.

Carlton House Terrace was designed by John Nash and built between 1827-1832 on the site of the former home of the Prince Regent and was conceived as part of a wider scheme to improve the Park and its surroundings. It comprises, a pair of grand terraces, of four storey stuccoed buildings, whose south fronts are decorated with Corinthian columns, the edge of one can be seen in the present watercolour. The two terraces were originally intended to be separated by an elaborate fountain; however, this was rejected in favour of the steps which lead down to the Mall and St James's Park.

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