Crab, a favourite Terrier at Downing Hall, North Wales

John Higton

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Description

John Higton (1775-1827)
Crab, a favourite Terrier at Downing Hall, North Wales

Inscribed verso: Crab, a favourite Terrier at Downing Hall
Watercolour over traces of pencil with original wash-line border
18 by 24.2 cm., 6 ¼ by 9 ½ in.

Exhibited:
London, Royal Academy, 1812, no.33 as `Portrait of Crab, a favourite terrier'

Downing Hall, Whitford, Flintshire was the seat of the Pennant family from 1627 until 1920, when it was sold. It caught fire in 1922, was badly damaged and consequently left uninhabited until it was demolished in 1953. The best known occupant of the house was the naturalist and antiquarian Thomas Pennant (1726-1798). In 1812, the date of the present work, Downing was occupied by his son David Pennant (1763-1841).

John Higton was born in Virginia, the son of a cotton planter and loyalist who returned to Britain with the 1st Marquis of Cornwallis and became a successful cotton merchant. He became a successful animal painter specialising in dogs and his patrons included Lord Sedley and the 2nd Earl of Warwick.

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