Still life of Goods Rescued During the Bristol Riots of 1832

William James Müller

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Description

William James Müller (1812-1845)
Still life of Plunder taken during the Bristol Riots of 1832

Signed with initials and dated lower left 1832
Watercolour over pencil
23 by 18.2 cm., 9 by 7 ¼ in.

Provenance:
With the Albany Gallery, London;
Private collection

Literature:
Lowell Libson Ltd, Watercolour and Drawings, 2007, cat no 29, illus.

Exhibited:
London, Lowell Libson Ltd, Watercolours and Drawings, 28 November - 14th December 2007, no. 29

The Bristol Riots of October 1831 were caused by the voting down of the second Reform Bill in the House of Lords which was intended to lead to electoral reform. The arrival of the anti-reform judge Charles Wetherell in Bristol on 29th October lead to three days of riots and protests during which much of the city centre was burnt down and up to 250 citizens were killed.

All accounts of the riots mention the quantity of plunder mostly taken the houses in Queen Square. Another watercolour by the artist, also signed and dated 1832, showing stolen goods in a house on St Augustine's Back is in Bristol Museum and Art Gallery (see Francis Greenacre and Sheena Stoddard, W.J. Müller, 1991, p.80-81, no.45, ill.).

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