Rheinfels and St. Goar, from the Castle of Katz, on the Rhine

William Callow



REF: 3205

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Description

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William Callow, R.W.S. 1812-1908)
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Signed lower centre: W. Callow 1839
Watercolour over pencil heightened with bodycolour, stopping out and scratching out
47.8 by 64.6 cm., 18 ¾ by 25 ¼ in.

Exhibited:
London, Society of Painters in Water-colours, 1839, no.258, sold for 25 guineas

This is a view looking north-west up the Rhine from Burg Katz towards Burg Rheinfels and the town of St Goar. The castle which was originally built in the late 1300s, stands in a dominant position above the Rhine. Callow shows it in ruins after it was bombarded by Napoleon in 1806 - it was rebuilt in the late 1890s and is privately owned.

Callow visited Switzerland and Germany on his first tour of central Europe in the autumn of 1838. He records in his diary: `Next proceeded on foot to Bacharach and Pfalz, passing many old castles romantically situated on the tops of hills overlooking the river, and reached Oberwesel, with its fine castle of Schonburg. At the hotel I tried to speak German, and on asking for some wine, they brought me some cold meat. Continued my walk to St. Goar, and crossed the river to see the castle of Katz. Proceeded along a path beside the river to Boppart and Coblenz, where I crossed the bridge of boats to visit Ehrenbreitstein (H.M. Cundall (ed.), William Callow - an Autobiography, 1908, p.70). An on-the-spot sketch of this view dated 9th October 1838, was sold at Christie's South Kensington on 11th March 2014, lot 348.

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