Zante, Greece

Edward Lear

Sold

REF: 3147

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Description

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Edward Lear (1812-1888)
Zante from the foothills of Mount Skopos, Greece

Inscribed and dated lower right: Zante (201.c)/goats 26. May. 5.30_6.P.M.
Pen and ink and watercolour over pencil heightened with white
18.5 by 28.7 cm., 7 ¼ by 11 ¼ in.

In the foreground is the town of Zante or Zakynthos, the main town on the island of Zante, one of the Ionian Islands. Lear spent the winter of 1862-3 on Corfu and travelled round the Ionian Islands in April and May, In June he returned to England via Italy.

This sketch dates from 26th May 1863 and is numbered 201c. No. 210 from this trip, drawn at 5pm on 28th May, was with Guy Peppiatt Fine Art in 2017. Lear's diary records that he arrived in Zante harbour on board the Europa at 6am on 26th May and wrote: `Zante looked gayer & more beautiful than ever: - brilliance & elegance are its chief characteristics' and later in the day: `At 2 - out with G[iorgio] to a hill, where I drew Zante till 4: a fatiguing sketch: - then walked - examining other places till 6.30….'. Giorgio was Lear's long term travelling companion and servant.

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