

Between Caracalla and Laura, Mount Athos, Greece

Edward Lear

Sold



Description

Edward Lear (1812-1888)
Between Caracalla and Laura, Mount Athos, Greece

Inscribed lower left: between Karacalla & Laura and lower right: 5.th Sept. 1856
Pen and brown ink and watercolour
15 by 23cm., 5 ¾ by 9 inches

Caracalla and Laura are two monasteries on the Holy Mountain of Athos. Lear spent three weeks there in the late summer of 1856 - he appreciated the scenery and was well received by the monks. The present watercolour shows the ruggedness of the landscape through which he travelled which he described as 'abundantly and exquisitely glorious and stupendous' (letter to Chichester Fortescue, 9th October 1856, quoted in Vivien Noakes, Edward Lear 1812-1888, 1985, p.147). A watercolour of the monastery at Caracalla by Lear, dated 4th September 1856, was sold at Sotheby's on 11th July 1990, lot 138

Provenance:

H.C. Green, his sale, Sotheby's London, 18th October 1961, lot 93;
Mrs Robert M. Benjamin, New York

Exhibited:

New York, Davis Galleries, Edward Lear, 24 October to 19 November 1966