The Ponte Clementino at Civita Castellana, Italy, 16th June 1843

Edward Lear

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Description

Edward Lear (1812-1882)
The Ponte Clementino at Civita Castellana, Italy, 16th June 1843

Inscribed lower left: Civita Castellana./June 16 1843, with a smaller sketch of the same subject in the lower right corner
Pen and brown ink and watercolour over pencil
22.5 by 35.5 cm., 8 ¾ by 14 in.

Provenance:
With Thos. Agnew & Sons, 1983;
Private collection, Taos, New Mexico;
Private collection, London

Lear drew this sketch while he was living forty miles away in Rome in the 1840s. The Ponte Clementino was built by Pope Clement XI in 1709 and connects the old and new towns of Civita Castellana crossing the Rio Maggiore. Like no.55, it is an early example of his new watercolour style and is more highly finished than most of his on-the-spot sketches perhaps suggesting that he was planning an engraving of the subject.

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