Moscow from the Neskuchny Gardens

Alfred Gomersal Vickers

REF: 2386

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Description

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Alfred Gomersal Vickers (1810-1837)
Moscow from the Neskuchny Gardens

Inscribed verso: Moscow from the Nescoohny Gardens
Watercolour over pencil heightened with bodycolour
24.4 by 36.3 cm., 9 ½ by 14 ¼ in.

Provenance:
With Thos. Agnew & Sons, London (46408);
Arthur A. Houghton, Queenstown, Maryland (1906-1990)

Engraved:
By E. Radcliffe for A Journey to St Petersburg and Moscow through Courland and Livonia by Leitch Ritchie, 1836, opp. p.187

In 1833, Vickers was commissioned by Charles Heath to make a series of sketches in Russia for publication in Leitch Ritchie, A Journey to St Petersburg and Moscow through Courland and Livonia by Leitch Ritchie, published in 1836.
Ritchie describes the view: 'the Moskva is in front, with one of the long rafts of the country floating down the stream; and in the distance, the city rises above the horizon, with the tall tower of Ivan Velikoi overtopping the whole. From this place the ground on which it stands appears to be almost flat; but as we advance towards it, from the rising and falling of the parts of the picture, we perceive that in reality, the city stands on lofty ground swelling from the water's edge, and variegated with numerous eminences.' (ibid. p. 187).
Neskuchny park is the oldest park in Moscow. The core of the park is the gardens initially created in the 18th Century by P. Demidov to house his collection of rare plants. The estate was then acquired by Count Orlov, however, in 1830. Tsar Nicholas I bought the estate, as well as the two neighbouring estates belonging to the Golitsyns and Trubetskyoys-Shakhovskoys and created an Imperial residence.

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