A Castle on an Estuary, possibly Conway

John Varley

Sold

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Description

John Varley (1778-1842)
A Castle on an Estuary, possibly Conway

Inscribed on part of old mount: Given by John Varley to/And. Pritchard/1824
Watercolour over pencil
Sheet 17.6 by 24.9 cm., 6 ¾ by 9 ¾ in.

Provenance:
Given by the artist to his cousin Andrew Pritchard (1804-1882), 1824

The present unfinished watercolour, gives an insight into John Varley's working methods, with the background carefully worked up, whilst the foreground is still a roughly worked sketch.

The watercolour appears to depict a view in North Wales and whilst the sketchy nature of the work makes it difficult to identify the castle, it may be that Varley had depicted Conway Castle but without its distinctive towers.

This sketch was given by the artist to his cousin Andrew Pritchard, who like his cousins was a capable draughtsman in his own right. However, he is best remembered for his pioneering work on the study of microscopy. He was apprenticed to Cornelius Varley and then set up as an optician and seller of microscopes. He produced several beautifully illustrated books on the subject.

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