JOHN BENNETT fine paintings

A view of the Thames foreshore at Chelsea with the Adam and Eve pub

ENGLISH SCHOOL Circa 1850

£ POA

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REF: 374872

Description

ENGLISH SCHOOL c. 1850 A view of the Thames foreshore at Chelsea with the Adam and Eve pubOil on board laid down, indistinctly inscribed on label on reverse43 x 64.2 cms167/8 x 251/4 inchesOverall framed size 53.7 x 74 cms211/8 x 291/8 cms This painting depicts a view of Chelsea from the River Thames at low tide with moored barges in the foreground and the Adam and Eve overlooking the river. It was a popular subject with painters of London and Walter Greaves (1846-1934) and James Abbott McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) both produced views of this stretch of the river and examples of them can be seen in the London Museum, Government Art Collection and the National Maritime Museum. Walter Greaves and his brother were both local artists and the family had worked as ferrymen. Their father had rowed J M W Turner and the sons had ferried Whistler to destinations along the river.Chelsea, which in Faulkner's History of Chelsea, is defined as being "…bounded on the north by the Fulham Road, which separates it from Kensington; on the east by a rivulet, which divides it from St George's, Hanover Square, and which enters the Thames near Ranelagh; on the west a brook, which rises near Wormholt Scrubs, and falls into the Thames facing Battersea Church, divides this parish from that of Fulham. In 787, Offa, King of the Mercians, held a Synod in the area and around 799 a church was probably founded although there is no official record of it until1157. Probably the earliest record of the name appears in a charter of Edward the Confessor where it is written as Cealchylle. The Anglo-Saxon spelling seems to have confused the Norman scribes of the Domesday Book as it is recorded as being a village in Middlesex as Cercehede and as Chelched. Sometime later the spellings Chelcheth and Chelcith make an appearance before Chelsey was first adopted in the 16th century and the modern version entered common usage in the 18th century. There has been some debate about the etymological root of the name but the most probable derives from Anglo-Saxon ceosel or cesol, becoming chisel, which describes an area of washed up pebbles and sand and is still apparent in Chesil Beach near Weymouth and even Selsey near Chichester which has a peninsular of pebbles. At the end of the Carolean age Chelsea was a "…quiet country village, with about a thousand inhabitants" and the water was so clear and pure that even Charles II bathed there. Faulkner wrote of an event in 1796 that he witnessed at first-hand : " I was present at a stag-hunt in Chelsea. The animal swam across the river from Battersea, and made for Lord Cremorne's grounds. Upon being driven from thence, he ran along the water-side as far as the church, and turning up Church Lane, at last took refuge in Mrs Hutchin's barn, where he was taken alive" Chelsea gradually became absorbed into the greater metropolis while still retaining some of its old buildings and charmThere were once many public houses in the Chelsea area, particularly along the water's edge, one of them being The Aquatic on Cheyne Walk with J M W Turner spending the last years of his life next door at number 119. The Adam and ...

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