JOHN BENNETT fine paintings

Boys Bathing

JOHN JAMES CHALON

Sold

London, England

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REF: 374754

Height: 107.5 cm (42.3")

Width: 92.1 cm (36.3")

Framed Height: 125.5 cm (49.4")

Framed Width: 109 cm (42.9")

Description

JOHN JAMES CHALON RA
1778-1854
English School

Boys Bathing

Oil on canvas, signed and dated 1810

Exhibited: Royal Academy, 1810, no.302.
Geneva Musée d'Art - Chalon Exhibition,1971, no.17.

Provenance: Anonymous sale (J.R.Lorent); Christie's, London, 14th April 1883, lot 139
(37 gns. to Bt.Partrington [?]).
Anonymous sale; Sotheby's, London, 23rd November 1966, lot 36
Fine Art Society, 1966
Anonymous sale; Christie's, London, 25th November 1977, lot 161
Anna Nelson; and thence by descent.

John James Chalon, like his renowned younger brother, the portrait and genre painter Alfred Edward, was born in Geneva on 27th March 1778. The family was of French Protestant descent which had fled their native country following the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685. The edict of Nantes, passed by Henry IV in 1598, had granted tolerance to Huguenot Protestants and had helped bring a statutory conclusion to the Wars of Religion of 1568 to 1592.

There were strong links between Geneva and England at this time. Britain was in the ascendancy as a world power at the expense of France whose influence was waning and the opportunities that this afforded to people with skills and ideas, combined with the long-standing religious sympathies between the city and this country, meant that Geneva had a population who became Anglophiles. There had been an influx of artists who came to work
towards the latter half of the eighteenth century including Jean-Etienne Liotard, Barthélemy du Pan, Jacques Laurent Agasse and François Ferrière.

The Chalon brothers' father had secured the position of Professor at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst in 1789 so the family came to England where both brothers joined the Royal Academy Schools of Art - John doing so in 1796 and John exhibited his first painting at the RA in 1801 "A Turnpike Gate" followed by "Banditi at their Repast" in 1802.

In 1808, the Chalon brothers, together with some friends, founded 'The Society of Epic and Pastoral Design' which later became known by the lighter epithet of 'The Chalon Sketching Society' and even the 'Bread and Cheese Society' because of the members taking it in turn to provide food and drink when they met. John had been appointed an Associate Member of the Old Water Colour Society in 1805 and was

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elected a full Member in 1808 but resigned from this august body in 1813 to concentrate on working in oils. He was also elected an Associate Member of the Royal Academy in 1827, gaining full membership in 1845.

He is best known as a landscape painter although there are a few animal, history and genre paintings and marines. The landscapes are in the traditional style and a large part of his English scenes were painted close to the Thames and in this endeavour he worked with Thomas Christopher Hofland, a landscape artist with a similar style with whom he was good friends. He also produced a significant number of paintings depicting Switzerland, particularly in the Geneva environs, including a masterful view of Château Chillon. In 1820, he visited Paris, painting some oils and in 1820 h...

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