

JOHN BENNETT fine paintings

A Golden Pheasant and Hen in a Landscape; a Silver Pheasant and Hen; a pair

Sold

JOHANN HEINRICH TISCHBEIN



REF: 339388

Height: 33.7 cm (13.3")

Width: 45.8 cm (18")

Framed Height: 46 cm (18.1")

Framed Width: 58 cm (22.8")

## Description

Johann Heinrich Tischbein was the nephew and pupil of the history and portrait painter Johann Heinrich Tischbein the Elder (1722-1789) and was born in Hayna on 28th November 1742.

His father was Johann Konrad Tischbein, a carpenter at the convent in Haina, and they came from a family of artists, engravers, architects, set designers and decorators and cartographers which spanned three generations and was comprised of at least fifteen members. His younger brother, Johann Heinrich Wilhelm, became a portrait painter and gained the epithet the "Goethe Tischbein" on account of his friendship with the poet and writer and the famous painting that he did of Goethe in the Italian Campagna.

Johann Heinrich the Younger travelled in the Netherlands for a while working predominantly on landscape, animal painting and occasionally portraiture. He returned to the area of his upbringing, settling in Kassel which became known later in the early 19th century as the home of the brothers Grimm. His uncle had established an art gallery there on behalf of William VIII, Landgrave of Hesse-Kassel who had started to build Schloss Wilhelmstahl and was collecting paintings to fill it. In 1775, Tischbein the Younger was appointed Director of the gallery.

Apart from the oils and watercolours of the aforementioned subjects which included a portrait of the poet Gottfried August Burger done in 1771, Tischbein was a notable etcher and engraver. One of the best known of these is an etching of a much-loved Indian elephant which was part of the Landgrave menagerie. This animal had died prematurely as a consequence of injuries sustained in a fall and after the skull had been examined by Goethe, it became known as the "Goethe Elefant."

In 1790 Tischbein published the volume containing eighty-four plates with the title "Kurtzgefaßte Abhandlung über die Aetzkunst" (Brief Treatise on Etching). He gave artistic instruction to his nephew Franz Pforr which enabled the latter to gain admission to the prestigious Akademie der bildenden Künste in Vienna and he went on to become a portrait and history painter of some note.

Examples of Tischbein's work can be seen in: the British Museum, The Hermitage in St Petersburg, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco, Nuremberg and Spire.

He died in Kassel on 22nd December 1808.

## Bibliography:

Allgemeines Lexikon der Bildenden Künstler von der Antike bis zur Gegenwart - Ulrich Thieme and Felix Becker

Dictionnaire des Peintres - E Benezit

Painting and Sculpture in Europe 1780-1880 - Fritz Novotny

## THE GOLDEN PHEASANT

The golden pheasant, also known as Chinese pheasant, is a member of the phasianus family which is the most widespread gamebird in the world. The genus is a native of Eurasia but was introduced to Europe,

North America, Africa and elsewhere where it has become established.

The Colchicus or black-necked pheasant, which used to be known as the Old English, is the most common pheasant in Britain and has been present here for at least 900 years. The Golden pheasant originated in the mountainous forested regions of western China and was introduced to Britain later ...