Edward Linley Sambourne - Legislature

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£950



REF: 3265

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Description

EDWARD LINLEY SAMBOURNE(1844-1910)
Legislature – Regulations for Ground Game: Field Mice
Signed and inscribed l.c.: Linley Sambourne Inv et DelPen and ink, circularFramed
12 cm.; 4 ¾ in. diameter(frame size 21.5 by 21.5 cm., 8 ½ by 8 ½ in.)
Provenance:The collection of John Russell Taylor
Linley Sambourne was born in London, the son of a fur merchant. He studied for a short time at the South Kensington School of Art before he joined the drawing office of a company of Greenwich marine engineers. He came into contact with Mark Lemon, the editor of Punch, who encouraged him to take lessons from the engraver Joseph Swain. His first drawing was published in Punch in 1867. By 1871 he had become a regular staff member at Punch providing social and political illustrations and cartoons. In 1902 he succeeded John Tenniel as the magazine's chief principal cartoonist. In addition to his work for Punch he provided illustrations for numerous books and other journals.
His house at 18 Stafford Terrace, Kensington is open to the public and is considered to be one of the finest surviving middle-class Aesthetic interiors. It now belongs to the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and is overseen by the Victorian Society.
Sambourne's current illustration may be commenting on the 1880 Ground Game Act which allowed farmers and occupiers of land to kill ground game that were damaging their crops. However, the 1880 Act concentrated on rabbits and hares. Field mice, were considered as pests rather than game and were controlled by trapping and sealing off access points.