SARAH COLEGRAVE
FINE ART

Frederick Walker - The Arrival of the Bride

Frederick Walker

£1,200



REF: HG1

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Description

FREDERICK WALKER, ARA(1840-1875)
The Arrival of the Bride – An Illustration to Miss Thackeray's "Mrs Archie"
Watercolour and pencil
12.5 by 19 cm., 5 by 7 ½ in.(frame size 28 by 34 cm., 11 by 13 1/3 in.)
Provenance:Christie's London, The Artist's Studio Sale, 17 July 1875, lot 99;Bt. Agnews, London;Private collection, UK.
An extensive inscription attached to the backboard reads:
An illustration by F Walker ARA to Miss Thackeray's tale "Mrs Archie" which appeared in the Cornhill Magazine in August 1863 as a woodcut. The drawing was not made till 1870. Extract from a letter from Walker to his sister dated Jan 31 1870: "I have a sort of coloured sketch in hand from that story Mrs Archie – you know – the introduction scene. It does well as a stop gap." The drawing under the title of "The Arrival of the Bride" was sold at the sale of Walker's works at Christie's after his death. Lot 99 for 53 guineas to Agnew. It was exhibited in the Exhibition of Walker's works held in 1876, lent by Messrs Agnew.
The present work is a later watercolour version of Walker's 1863 illustration for Anne Isabella Thackeray's "Mrs Archie" which appeared in the Cornhill Magazine, July-Dec 1863, Vol VIII, illus. op.p.80. The scene shows the arrival of Archie MacArthur's new bride at his family home:
"In due time Mrs Archie made her appearance in the drawing-room, taking away every one's breath by her brilliance. She was dress in bright blue silk, all flounces and trimmings, and wore delicate lace and glittering ornaments".
Frederick Walker is regarded as the founder of the Idyllic School of Victorian Painters whose members included George John Pinwell, John William North, Robert Walker Macbeth and others. He was a successful painter in both oils and watercolrous as well as a prolific illustrator producing line drawings to be turned into wood engravings for popular books and magazines. His promising career was tragically cut short when he died of tuberculosis at the age of 35.