Drawing - Mehemet Ali

Object: Drawing

Place of origin: Egypt (painted)

Date: 1841 (painted)

Artist/Maker: Wilkie, David Sir, RA, born 1785 - died 1841 (painter (artist))

Materials and Techniques: Pencil, watercolour and black chalk, laid down on card

Credit Line: Purchased with the assistance of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, Art Fund, Shell International and the Friends of the V&A

Museum number: SD.1206

Gallery location: Prints & Drawings Study Room, level D, case 87, shelf SC, box 41

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Descriptive line

Drawing, 'Mehemet Ali', 1841, by Sir David Wilkie RA

Physical description

Drawing

Dimensions

Height: 34.7 cm oval, Width: 29.1 cm

Museum number

SD.1206

Object history note

According to Rodney Searight: - 'Bt Christie's, Oct.18th 1966 [(72)], 34 gns ' [i.e. £35 - 17 shillings]

Historical context note

A version in Sir David Wilkie’s Sketches In Turkey, Syria & Egypt, 1840 & 1841, [1843], [Pl.1], lithograph by Joseph Nash with the above title (see SP.652:1-26). Sketched in Alexandria, probably on 6 May 1841, during the first of four sittings given by Muhammad Ali for an oil portrait he had commissioned from the artist (inscribed David Wilkie ft Alexandria, May 11th 1841, Tate Gallery; exhibited RA 1842 (116): see Cunningham, 1843, pp.464-6. According to the notes accompanying Wilkie’s Sketches, the Pasha objected to this first sketch because 'the British have deprived me of my sword', a reference to the Egyptian defeat at Acre and subsequent Treaty of London: see Brighton, Inspiration of Egypt, 1983, p.125; RA, The Orientalists, 1984, pp.232-3; Bendiner, 1981.

URL

http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O153393/mehemet-ali-drawing-wilkie-david-sir/