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Romantic Drawing Of The Alcázar, Toledo, Castile-la Mancha, Spain, Alcántara Bridge, 19th Century

270 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : En l'etat

Material : Paper



Description

A large and beautiful picturesque and romantic 19th-century drawing, typical of the traveling artists who crisscrossed Europe in search of historical landscapes. The drawing depicts a panoramic view of the city of Toledo, Spain. Emblematic elements are recognizable: the Alcántara Bridge, a fortified medieval bridge spanning the Tagus River; the Alcáza, an imposing rectangular fortress dominating the horizon on the right; and the fortifications, the city encircled by walls and watchtowers, reinforcing the medieval aspect so beloved by the Romantics. In contrast to the fine depiction of the fortified city, the foreground is enlivened by a bucolic scene: shepherds and peasants (some mounted on donkeys) tending a mixed flock of goats, sheep, and cattle. Some animals drink

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directly from the river, adding a touch of naturalism to the composition. The drawing is done in pen and ink wash (diluted ink), enhanced with white gouache (for the clouds and the highlights on the water and walls). The tinted paper (beige/brown) serves as a mid-tone. The artist plays on the contrast between the wild nature (the large, gnarled trees on the left) and the grandeur of the historical ruins. The light is soft, almost melancholic, typical of this era, which sought to capture the "soul" of places. In the 19th century, Spain was a prime destination for Romantic artists (such as Victor Hugo and Prosper Mérimée). They saw it as a nearby Orient, a land of chivalry. This drawing is a direct testament to this fascination with Spanish heritage. Mounted on heavy paper, in ink and wash (wet washes). Mounted dimensions: 39.4 x 29.4 cm Visible drawing dimensions: 31.4 x 21.4 cm