

Ex 69



Colonel Westenra's "Freney"

69

William Brocas RHA (c.1794-1868)

COLONEL WESTENRA'S "FRENEY" WITH JOCKEY AND ATTENDANTS ON THE CURRAGH, CO. KILDARE and "ROLLER", A BAY HUNTER WITH HOUNDS "JOLTY BOY" AND "JACKEY BOY" IN A STABLE (A PAIR)

oil on canvas; (2)

the first, signed and inscribed [W. Brocas pinx(t)], Dublin] lower left; with typed label on reverse detailing title; the second, with Cornelius Callaghan [Carver & Gilder, 24 Clare St., Dublin] label on reverse; with horse and hounds names also on reverse 28 by 36in. (71.12 by 91.44cm)

Provenance:

Colonel Westenra's "Freney":

Frost & Reed, London;

Private collection, Los Angeles, California;

with the Gorry Gallery, Dublin;

Where purchased by the present owner

"Roller", A Bay Hunter:

Commissioned by James Hans Hamilton (1810-1863) M.P. for County Dublin, who lived at Sheephill, Castleknock, Co. Dublin, later called Abbotstown;

with the Gorry Gallery, Dublin;

Where purchased by the present owner

Exhibited:

"An Exhibition of 18th - 21st Century Irish Paintings", Gorry Gallery, Dublin, 26 November to 6 December 2003, catalogue nos. 16 & 17

We have here two of the finest examples of early 19th century Irish equestrian art to grace the auction rooms for a long time.

They are painted by William Brocas, a member of a distinguished family of 18th century Irish artists, famous for their portraits, landscapes and streetscapes, many of them popularised by engravings and illustrations in books and periodicals.

William was born around 1794-5. He practised in Dublin and exhibited at the Society of Artists from 1809, when only a teenager, and at the RHA from 1828 to 1863. He was elected an ARHA in 1854 and RHA in 1860. Among his most well known works are his depiction of the *New Post Office* (known to us today as the GPO) in 1818, which was engraved by J. Martyn, *The Departure of Irish Emigrants* which was purchased and by The Irish Art Union in 1842 and printed by them and a very fine *View of Bray Head* in the collection of the NGI.

In the first painting we see Colonel Westenra's racehorse, *Freney*, with jockey and attendants on The Curragh, County Kildare. *Freney*, was sired by *Roller* out of the mare *Promise*. At the time of this painting he was the property of Colonel Henry Westenra of Camla Vale, Co. Monaghan. Colonel Westenra had served in India with the 8th Royal Hussars, and