

SA1220952

Sidney Yates Johnson, Ben Nevis From The River - Antique Oil Painting

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1220952****Date of manufacture: 1900**

Dimensions

Height = 56 cm (22.0")

Width = 92 cm (36.2")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

This atmospheric early 20th-century oil painting by British artist Sidney Yates Johnson (1861-after 1936) depicts Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in Britain, rising beyond the tranquil waters of a broad river. In the foreground, reeds bend gently along the water's edge while a shepherd tends sheep amongst autumnal grasses. Johnson's treatment of atmosphere is particularly effective. The mountain itself appears softened by distance, its slopes dissolving into pale blue-grey tones beneath an expansive sky. The stillness of the river reflects the light above, creating a calm visual rhythm that guides the eye from the foreground towards the distant Highlands. Ben Nevis has long occupied a special place within Britain's cultural imagination. Rising to 1,345 metres above sea level, it is the highest mountain in the British Isles and has attracted a variety of travellers, scientists, artists, and mountaineers for centuries. The mountain was climbed by the poet John Keats in 1818, who memorably compared the ascent to "mounting ten St. Paul's without the convenience of a staircase." By the time Johnson painted this view, it had become one of the most famous destinations in the S...

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