



Pig sticking on the United Provinces of India

Sold



REF: 29654

Height: 30 cm (11.8")

Width: 47 cm (18.5")

Framed Height: 53.5 cm (21.1")

Framed Width: 72.5 cm (28.5")

Framed Depth: 72.5 cm (28.5")

Description

Pig Sticking Watercolour By J. D. Guille.

A very good framed watercolour of an old and rare subject 'Pig Sticking'. The watercolour is entitled 'Pigsticking on the United Provinces of India' the artist, J. D. Guille, an Irish army officer. Written in ink on the back board "J. D. Guille Bellevue Bray, Pigsticking on the United Provinces of India, NOT FOR SALE or COMPETITION". There are several paper labels as well one reading "Entered By Cotton & Morris, The Exchange, Simla, Agents For Fine Arts Exhibition".

There were several Victorian, Edwardian artists who illustrated the sport for magazines and prints, most notably Lionel Edwards and Snaffles (Charles Johnson Payne). Pig sticking, the hunting of wild pig by mounted spearmen, was a popular, exciting and sometimes dangerous pastime of cavalrymen and was a popular recreation for British officers in India. According to the 1911 Encyclopedia Britannica, it was actively encouraged by military authorities as good training. In India pig-sticking events took place, the most famous of which was the Kadir Challenge Cup which was the highest honour in the sport of pig-sticking or hog-hunting and the ultimate ambition of any pig sticker was to win it. The most famous winner of the cup being Sir Robert Baden-Powell in 1883 (Lord Baden-Powell was a lieutenant-general in the British Army in India and Africa, he was also the founder of the Scout Movement in 1906). He wrote a book on the sport called 'Pig-Sticking or Hog-Hunting: A Complete Account for Sportsmen - And Others', published in 1924. Also in a chapter on pig sticking in his autobiography, Lessons from the Varsity of Life (1933), he wrote: "Yes, hog-hunting is a brutal sport - and yet I loved it, as I loved also the fine old fellow I fought against".