

Justinian Walter Gantz



The Fortress of Gooty, Andhra Pradesh, India

Reference: 10887

Dimensions:

Height: 32 cm / 12⁵/₈ in

Width: 47 cm / 18¹/₂ in

KT591

Watercolour over traces of pencil

32 x 47 cm.; 12 5/8 x 18 1/2 inches

Provenance

Spink, London, 'A Journey through India- Pictures of India by British Artists', 9 October-1 November 1996, no. 30; Sotheby's, London, 8 June 2000, lot 69; Private collection, U.K. until 2023

Justinian Gantz, described in the East India Gazette as 'Miniature Painter', was the son of the artist John Gantz. In

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addition to their work as draughtsmen for the East India Company, they may have practised as architects and ran a family lithographic press in Popham's Broadway, Chennai (M. Archer, *British Drawings in the India Office Library*, 1969, I, p.49, and J.R. Abbey, *Travel in Aquatint and Lithography*, 1957, II, no.445). Seven watercolours by Justinian Gantz of European houses in Chennai dating from 1832-1841 are in the collection of the British Library (M. Archer, *op.cit.*, II, pp. 604-606).

The fortress of Gooty was an important British stronghold 269 miles from Chennai and 44 miles east of Bellary. It comprised a number of strong works, connected with each other on the summits of a cluster of hills and enclosing a space of level ground where the town was situated. Two fortified gateways gave access to the town to the south-west and north-west. A huge smooth rock to the north of the circle of hills ascended through 14 gateways and fortifications to form a citadel.

This work was part of a group of views of southern India by Justinian and John Gantz included in the Spink exhibition in 1996.