

Francis Place



Zaffia in Barbaria

Reference: 11216

Dimensions:

Height: 23.10 cm / 9 $\frac{1}{8}$ in

Width: 33.70 cm / 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ in

Inscribed l.c.: Zaffia in Barbaria, pen and brown ink and wash on laid paper, collector's mark on old backing

23.1 x 33.7 cm; 9 1/8 x 13 1/4 inches

Provenance: Anna Place, the artist's widow until 1732; Frances Wyndham, the artist's daughter; Her nephew Francis Parrott ;By family descent to Francis Parrott Jr; His sister Elizabeth, widow of Captain John Fraser of Hospitalfield, Arbroath; Her daughter Elizabeth and Patrick Allan-Fraser; His sale, Sotheby's, June 1931, lot 133; Sir Bruce Ingram, (Lugt, 1405a); R.E.S. Willison; Sotheby's London, 19 November 1987, lot 85; Michael and Justina Ryan until 2019

This is a view of Safi, southwest of Casablanca in western Morocco. The sixteenth century fortress built by the Portuguese dominates the town.

Another drawing of this town from a slightly different aspect by Jan Peeters (1624-78) (View of Zaffia in Barbary c.1665, pen, brown ink and grey wash, on paper) also belonged to Sir Bruce Ingram and is now in the Fitzwilliam Museum (PD. 587-1963).

Place was the earliest English artist whose main preoccupation was with landscape. He travelled on foot through Yorkshire, Wales, Scotland, Ireland and France, and was thus a forerunner of the sketching tours of artists a hundred

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years later. He knew Wenceslas Hollar (1607-1677), whose topographical work influenced his style and who accompanied an expedition to Tangier in 1669 to make records of the area. Place also worked as a book illustrator, pioneer of mezzotint and experimental potter (see E. Croft-Murray and P. Hulton, 'Catalogue of British Drawings', vol. I, British Museum, 1960 pp. 456-470).

This drawing is recorded on page 10 of the 'Drawings Notebook' at Hospitalfield House, Arbroath which was compiled by Wadham Wyndham, the artist's son-in-law.