

A CHANCE MEETING WITH A FORTUNE-TELLER - Adrien Moreau (1843-1906)



A gentleman and two ladies in early 17th century dress. A gypsy woman, barefoot, with her cittern (or English guitar) slung over her shoulder, reads the noble lady's palm to predict her future.

Like the *Minuet* [See # 23] the painting is dated 1878 and shows Moreau's ability to 'depict genre scenes as History'.

A charcoal drawing signed by Moreau was sold by French auction house Drouot.



On the other side of the Channel Christie's sold this watercolour in 2003. It is signed by Alexandre-Louis Leloir (1843-1884), Moreau's exact contemporary. Though it is fan-shaped, it is not a fan leaf: considering its size (31.1/2 in. x 12 in.) it could not have been mounted on sticks, even very large ones.



Lauronce used this design on folded fans as well as hand screens.



As usual Lauronce suppresses some figures (the maid, the dog) and the background, but not as drastically as this painted version sold in 2009 on the Internet. It features the two main figures, the lady and the fortune teller, together with the gypsy girl and shows that the subject was readily available to contemporary fan-painters.


