

THE LETTER - Henri Parsons Riviere (1818-1888)



Two girls in the traditional dress of Latium peasants have come to an elegant fountain to fill their water jugs. They are listening pensively to a young man who is reading aloud a letter.

Henry Parsons Riviere was a British artist who, like many Britons, had a crush on Italy. He painted Italian landscapes, monuments and scenes of every day life.

If the print here faithfully reproduces the original watercolour (which I could not locate) we can see that for once very few changes were made.

Only the background on the left has been suppressed: it consisted of a wall with a lantern and beams supporting a balcony.

The other elements are copied down to the most minute details: see for instance the small piece of wood shaped like a cross, in the foreground.



To get an idea of the original colours a comparison with another watercolour by Riviere may help.



It is not far-fetched to assume that the similarity of subject could well infer the similarity of colours, and that the fan would faithfully reproduce the colours of the original.
