

AN AMOROUS PROPOSAL - Jules James Rougeron (1841-1880)



A gallant bullfighter is paying his respects to a young beauty in pink satin and black lace, while the duenna discreetly watches the scene from behind her fan.

This small (8.5 in. x 10.5 in.) panel shows at its best Rougeron's skill at depicting refined Spanish scenes, so popular in the second half of the 19th century.

The fan adaptation by Lauronce shows a major change. It seems that the suitor has given up the hazards of bullfighting for a more gentle occupation: music, as shown by the guitar slung over his shoulder. Consequently and logically the background is no longer a shaded box at the sun-lit bullring, but an elegant terrace with classical architectural decoration.



(Private Collection)

The fine fan illustrated here is printed in *grisaille* on black satin and has smoked mother-of-pearl sticks. Quite remarkably it has been in the same family for three generations.

In addition to its aesthetic and historical interest the fan has a third noteworthy feature: it is signed "Ate.Lauronce". As shown in previous chapters (for instance in 'Focus on...Royat, 1891') there was not one by many Lauronce signatures. If this one had been known before, the mystery surrounding Lauronce's first name would have been cleared much earlier : male Christian names beginning with A and ending in ' te ' are not that plenty in French.


