



Islamic & Indian Paintings: The Dexter Collection Part II (16 Jul 2021 A)

Fri, 16th Jul 2021

Viewing:

Viewing by appointment only.

Fri 9 July, 10am to 5pm

Mon 12 July, 10am to 5pm

Tue 13 July, 10am to 5pm

Wed 14 July, 10am to 8pm

Thu 15 July, 10am to 5pm

Evening View

Wed 14 July, 6pm to 8pm

Please contact the [Department](#) to book an appointment.

Lot 41

Estimate: £400 - £600 + Fees

A SOUTH INDIAN PANDIT AND HIS DISCIPLE ON THEIR WAY TO WORSHIP Thanjavur (Tanjore), Tamil Nadu, South India, 19th century

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Thanjavur (Tanjore), Tamil Nadu, South India, 19th century

Opaque pigments on thick buff paper, the vertical composition depicting a South Indian pandit carrying a processional *kavati* on his shoulders with holy water pots, peacock feather fans, carved columns with stepped capitals, and an orange wooden arch decorated with tassels and chimes, wearing several strands of *rudraksha* beads, his body marked with several *tripundra* marks, the typical Shaivite *tilaka* with three horizontal lines, his disciple standing next to him and looking straight at the beholder whilst ringing a musical plate, possibly a call to prayer, the scene set within white and red rules and bright red borders, the recto plain except for an English inscription in sepia ink reading *Pynee Pundaurum and his Disciple, no. 26, 37cm x 30cm*.

The inscription on the recto offers food for thought. At a first glance, the first word may look like Pune, but the attire and style of the two characters suggest a South Indian setting and origin. The word *Pundaurum* seems to have been in use in the first part of the 19th century to describe Hindu pandits, scholars or teacher with specialised knowledge in Hindu practices and rituals. In 2013, Sotheby's London sold a large Company School album illustrating costumes, trades, dignitaries, craftsmen and processions (24 April 2013, lot 106). The large watercolour album was produced in Vellore, Tamil Nadu, South India in 1832 - 1835. Plate no. XIX illustrated a typical South Indian pandit and was accompanied by the caption *Pundaurum*.

Qty: 1

Dimensions: 37cm x 30cm