



Sir Oswald Walters Brierly (1817–1894)
Karnak, 1869
 Watercolour and bodycolour over pencil

The Royal Collection © 2005, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

In *Karnak*, Brierly used watercolour and bodycolour over pencil to gain subtle tonal gradation from the light of the sky to the dark shadows in the foreground. The vivid colours used also convey a feeling of heat from the sun and cool in the shade.

A recent discovery shows that a drawing on the reverse of this watercolour depicts an unfinished view of *Karnak* (discovered when the watercolour was being prepared for exhibition).

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Brierly was probably the most travelled of professional painters during the Victorian era, taking part in many voyages and recording scientific and historical subjects. He even came to New Zealand for a short time.

Brierly was commissioned to paint intermittently for Queen Victoria and her elder sons over thirty years from 1856, and accompanied the royal family on holidays abroad. He went with Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, on a two-month tour of Egypt and recorded his visit to the temple of Karnak.

STUDENT FOCUS QUESTIONS

- How has the artist established an atmosphere in this artwork?
- Brierly created this work in situ – is this, in your opinion, reflected in the finished artwork?
- How evident is the underdrawing in this work?

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

http://encyclopedia.jrank.org/BOS_BRI/BRIERLY_SIR_OSWALD_WALTERS_181.html

<http://gutenberg.net.au/dictbiog/0-dict-biogBr-By.html>