
Guide to the Artist's Sketchbook (1857)

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Scope and Contents

This artist's sketchbook documents an unidentified English artist's tour of Europe in 1857 and contains watercolors and pencil sketches accompanied by descriptions of the scenes depicted. The spine of the sketchbook has partially disintegrated, causing some of the pages to come loose. According to the hand-lettered title page, in which the artist identifies himself only as "Our Own Correspondent," this sketchbook comprises part one of three parts, covering the first leg of his tour from London to Linz, Austria. It is apparently unfinished, with watercolors and carefully penned descriptions filling roughly the first half of the sketchbook and the second half confined to spare pencil sketches and brief notations. The watercolors chiefly depict scenes along the Rhine and around Lake Constance. The pencil sketches and a few of the watercolors depict views along the Danube from Kelheim to Linz. There are also a few self-portraits of the artist, showing him in the Louvre, trying to observe the Alps through a telescope, and wearing his travelling attire.
