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VALUATIONS**



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## WINTER LANDSCAPES

Have you ever stopped to wonder why, in the 'Golden Age' of English landscape painting (1750-1850), there are so few winter landscapes by the major practitioners of the genre. In the 18th Century there are none by George Lambert, Richard Wilson or Thomas Gainsborough and one has to rely on examples by lesser fry such as de Loutherbourg, J.C. Ibbetson and George Smith of Chichester.



**Danby Winter Landscape**

In the next generation we have just a handful. 'A Frosty Morning' painted by J.M.W. Turner (1775-1851) of 1812, a copy of Jacob Ruysdael, by John Constable (1776-1837), who loved Ruysdael's paintings and owned 4 of them and two by Francis Danby, A.R.A (1793-1861). The Danbys are 'An Ice Slide' of 1849, exhibited at the R.A. in 1850 and a study of children skating outside a woodman's cottage, painted in the early 1820s.

It seems to be very odd there are so few, when one considers how many winter landscapes were painted in the Netherlands in the 17th Century and how prized by collectors and admired by artists in England such paintings were.



**Joseph Mallord William Turner - Frosty Morning**

I think in large part it is due to studio practice in the late 18th and early 19th Centuries. Artists would go out sketching from Spring to Autumn, when the weather was relatively clement and then work up the sketches into finished easel pictures in the winter.



**Constable copy of Jacob Ruysdael**

Constable travelled with a large and a small sketchbook everywhere he went, to record things of interest, including on honeymoon. I would like to hear from anyone who has a better explanation!

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