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Souvenir album

In the sitting room of the Château de Coulonges, in the Sarthe department, an album containing around fifty original gouache and watercolour drawings was long displayed like a guestbook. Carefully preserved by the descendants of its author, Baron François Adolphe Akermann (1809-1890), it was admired by visitors for over a century. This governor of the Bank of France created the collection for his wife on the “*liber amicorum*” model. Following a well-established tradition, it was considered good form for guests at a château to express their thanks with a pencil or watercolour composition, which their hosts would hasten to add to their collection. Mounted on single medium-sized loose leaves (20 x 30 cm), these fragile creations have been protected from the light and are still remarkably fresh. They will be auctioned separately, with estimates ranging from €500 for an ink wash by Émile Jean-Horace Vernet to €8,000/10,000 for a “*Seascape*” by Richard Parkes Bonington (1802-1828), who also did this “*Woman praying over a tomb*” (€5,000/6,000). Together, these numerous French and foreign signatures represent a sizeable selection of the mid-19th-century Romantic school.

Philippe Dufour

I Vendôme, Rouillac auction house.