ARTHUR MELVILLE

1855 - 1904

**ORANGE MARKET, SARRAGOSSA (Puerta de Los Pasajes)**

1892

watercolour on paper

23 x 30

frame 34 x 43½ ins

signed & dated bottom left

glazed

Flemings No. 758

Position 6th Floor 1A

Purchased Ian Macleod (26 Carleton Gate, Glasgow G46 6NU) private sale

through Bourne Fine Art, Edinburgh

Prov: Leslie W Wilson Esq.

Lit: Agnes E Mackay Arthur Melville 1951 p.150 (illus.pl.38)

Exhib: National Gallery of Scotland Hidden Assets 1995

 Bourne Fine Art, Edinburgh & Fine Art Society, London 1996

**Puerta de Los Pasajes**, watercolour on paper, d. 1892

Melville attended the Académie Julian in Paris in 1878-80 and later spent much time in France, Spain and North Africa, visiting Spain every year between 1890 and 1893. His companion in 1891 was the artist Frank Brangwyn who also made a watercolour depicting these very buildings, annotating it with the above title. Melville’s watercolour, long believed to depict the historic city of Saragossa on the river Ebro, has recently been reidentified as showing Pasajes, a fishing-village close to San Sebastián (now known as

Pasaia Donibane or Pasajes de San Juan). Brangwyn described it as a ‘city of one street’ on ‘a large bay, of the deepest and bluest of water, surrounded with picturesque stone-built houses ... a tiny Venice, with essentially Spanish features. The many-storeyed and balconied houses all look on the bay.... the place is as it was two hundred years ago.’ The waterfront and balconies that enchanted Melville and Brangwyn in 1891 still retain their charm today and are illustrated in many guidebooks.