

VILHELM JACOB ROSENSTAND

COPENHAGEN 1838 – COPENHAGEN 1915

Vilhelm Rosenstand's father was a bookkeeper in the Greenland Trade Department and bore the title of Kammerraad. The son was apprenticed as an artisan painter before being admitted to the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in the autumn of 1856, where he was awarded both the minor and major silver medals. For two winters Rosenstand was a private pupil of Wilhelm Marstrand and was later regarded by many as his successor, as throughout their lives both artists showed a predilection for painting genre and historical pictures.

During his long life as an artist, Vilhelm Rosenstand was awarded various distinctions such as the Neuhausen Prize, which he won in both 1865 and 1867, and his appointment as titular professor in the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in 1892. He was a member of the Academy Council from 1887 until three years before his death. From 1869 to 1881 he spent almost twelve years in Italy. He was in Vienna to participate in the World Fair in 1873, and he visited Paris in 1878 for a similar reason. What was of special significance for Rosenstand's genre painting was his 1881–1882 visit to the French capital.

In addition to participating in many prestigious exhibitions both in Copenhagen and abroad, Rosenstand exhibited at Charlottenborg almost every year, with very few exceptions, from 1861 to 1910. Although in his time he was considered inferior to artists such as Otto Bache and Carl Bloch, Vilhelm Rosenstand was together with them a typical representative of the many narrative and illustrative painters in the second half of the 19th century. He also achieved a reputation as a respected book illustrator.

In 1864 he served as a lieutenant in the Second Schleswig war against Prussia and Austria. After 1864 he came to stand as one of those rekindling a national awareness, and during the 1890's he painted several very large works with motifs from the war. Vilhelm Rosenstand achieved his greatest personal artistic triumph when he won the competition for two murals to decorate the Great Hall of Copenhagen University executed 1889–1890.

S.L.

LITERATURE: Sigurd Müller, *Nyere Dansk Malerkunst*, Copenhagen 1884; Sigurd Schultz in: *Dansk Biografisk Leksikon*, Vol. 12, Copenhagen 1982; Erik Mortensen in: *Weilbach*, Vol. 7, Copenhagen 1998.