

CARL FREDERIK SØRENSEN

BESSER 1818 – COPENHAGEN 1879

C. F. Sørensen was the son of a merchant and skipper from the little town of Besser on the island of Samsø in the Kattegat. Originally apprenticed as an artisan painter, in 1834 he was admitted to the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen, where he learned decorative painting. In 1844 he was awarded the minor silver medal for an ornamented stove screen, and the following year he received two months of instruction in perspective drawing by C. W. Eckersberg.

Sørensen exhibited at Charlottenborg from 1839 to 1879, though not every year. He also exhibited in the Paris world fairs of 1855 and 1878 and in Vienna in 1873 (two vases with seascapes for the Bing & Grøndahl porcelain manufactory). He worked as a decorative painter during his studies at the Academy, but in time replaced decorative with marine painting. In 1846 he was given permission to sail on a Danish frigate on an expedition to the Mediterranean. After this he took part in voyages almost every year, in 1853–1854 to Germany, Holland, Belgium, France, and England, in 1864 to Italy, and in 1874 to Iceland (accompanying King Christian IX).

C. F. Sørensen was a frequent visitor to Eckersberg's home, but only to a minor extent was he influenced by Eckersberg's style of painting. Sørensen's impressive seascapes gained him great popularity that spread outside Denmark. His pictures from Iceland are topographically interesting and artistically more subdued than the earlier works, but they are considered to be among the best in his oeuvre. During the war of 1848–1850 Sørensen accompanied the North Sea Squadron around Heligoland (1849) and the Baltic Squadron (1850), the result of which was a series of paintings portraying the Danish fleet at the war.

In 1869 C. F. Sørensen was given the title of professor and was accorded a considerable number of official marks of honor during his lifetime. Among his clients were the kings of Denmark and members of the courts in St. Petersburg, London, and Athens.

S.L.

LITERATURE: Philip Weilbach, *Dansk Kunstnerlexikon*, Copenhagen 1877–78; Hanne Jönsson (ed.), *C. W. Eckersberg og hans elever*, Statens Museum for Kunst, 1983; Mona Christensen and Jan Faye, *Marinemaleren C.F. Sørensen*, Helsingør Kommunes Museer, Marienlyst 1991; Jens Peter Munk in Weilbach, vol. 8, 1998.