

OSCAR CONRAD CARLSON

COPENHAGEN 1840 – DYBBØL 1864

Carlson's father was a master shoemaker, probably of Swedish descent. Even as a child, Oscar Carlson evinced a great desire to draw. After his confirmation he was allowed to receive instruction in drawing at Frederik Helsteds Institut in Copenhagen. From there he was graduated to the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, where he had instruction from 1856 to 1861, part of the time as a pupil of Professor Niels Simonsen (1807–1855).

Oscar Carlson's first works to be exhibited at Charlottenborg were a model figure, for which he was awarded the minor silver medal, and a painting entitled Parti fra et skovløberhus i Dyrehaven (View from a Forester's House in Dyrehaven), executed the same year and portraying the same area as the picture in the Loeb collection.

The promising young artist, whose special talent was painting scenes of everyday life, was not granted much time in which to paint. In the autumn of 1863 he was called up for war service and was killed during the defense of Dybbøl the day before his twenty-fourth birthday.

During the second Schleswig war against Prussia and Austria, like a number of other artists (including Otto Bache and Vilhelm Rosenstand, both represented in the Loeb collection), Carlson made drawings that were subsequently reproduced as woodcuts portraying life in the battlefield for the magazine Illustreret Tidende.

S.L.

LITERATURE: Herman Madsen, *En ukendt maler, Oscar Carlson og hans kunst*, in *Kunst*, 8.5.1955; pp. 226–228; Kirsten Nannestad in *Weilbach* vol. 1, 1994.