

John Frederick Herring Senior (1795-1865)

FEEDING THE DUCKS, c.1853-65

Oil on canvas 39.9 x 34.8 cm

Presented 1994.22



This painting was purchased by the donor's mother when the contents of Hoole Hall near Chester were sold by auction in 1923. It is a 'genre' picture, showing a scene from daily life, a type of painting particularly popular in 17th-century Holland and 19th-century Britain.

Herring first worked as a coach driver in Yorkshire until, with the encouragement of local patrons, he became a full-time painter, first

exhibiting at the Royal Academy in 1818. For many years he painted the winners of the Derby and the St Leger, as well as many other famous horses and jockeys. In 1845 he was appointed animal painter to the Duchess of Kent, whose daughter, Queen Victoria, became a patron for the rest of his life. Herring painted many small studies of rabbits, ducks and other animals, and after 1853 mainly produced farmyard scenes and narrative pictures. The girl in this scene is Jennie Herring, who posed for many of her father's paintings.