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CHARLES OLIVIER DE PENNE (Paris) 1831 – 1897

Three Hounds Resting by Wooded Path

oil on panel

55.5 x 45 cm

signed lower right: Ol De Penne

verso: The painting is dedicated to an artist friend.

Born in Paris, Charles Olivier de Penne, received his formal art training under Léon Cogniet, the history and portrait artist at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts and continued his studies with Charles Emile Jacque, the Realist and Barbizon painter. In 1857, de Penne exhibited *Jésus et la Samaritaine* at the competition for the Prix de Rome, winning the second grand prize. His love of animals, especially dogs, and scenes of the hunt appears to be a driving force behind his art, and its popularity. This charming painting of faithful hounds at rest demonstrates his great understanding of the animals' character.

Charles de Penne was a skilled painter, watercolourist, draughtsman, caricaturist and illustrator. He was taught by Léon Cogniet and Charles Jacques and produced caricatures for L'Illustration before moving onto historical subjects. He had a love of animals and started to paint them after 1855, specializing in dogs. It was his great friend Charles Jacques who noted de Penne's talent for painting dogs and encouraged him to specialize in that genre. As this charming work demonstrates, he had a great understanding of their character and his works became very popular. In 1857 he was awarded second prize in the Grand Prix de Rome and he exhibited regularly at the Paris Salon and the Salon des Artistes Français, winning a silver medal at the Exposition Universelle of 1889. He was a friend of Corot, Millet and Rousseau and his work were highly thought of in his time. This beautiful painting of hounds resting is undoubtedly one of his finest and most charming works and was gifted to his great friend Charles Jacques with a dedication to him on the back of the panel. Charles de Penne is represented in the Fine Art Museums of Chantilly, La Rochelle and Montreal.