

## **Biography of Samuel Hieronymus Grimm (1733-1794)**

Grimm was born in Burgdorf in January 1733, the second son of Johann Jakob (1680 – 1749) and Anna Maria Grimm-Leu (1694 – 1761). His earliest studies were in Burgdorf where early in his life his interests turned to poetic and artistic pursuits.

In the 1750s, he travelled the Bernese Oberland producing drawings of mountains and glaciers that would later be published. At the same time, he was also taking lessons from Johann Ludwig Aberli (1723 – 1786), with whom he worked for several years, while supplying illustrations for the Bernese publisher Walthard.

In August 1765, Grimm went to France to work with the engraver and teacher Jean-Georges Wille. It was during Grimm's three years with Wille that he further developed his landscape style as a result of sketching trips he and Wille took throughout France.

In February 1768, Grimm established himself in London where he would live until his death. He worked for numerous patrons, most notably Sir Richard Kaye, for whom he provided literally thousands of drawings and watercolors of topographical views, antiquarian sites, as well as material he thought would be of interest to his enlightened patron.

Grimm also received important commissions from the Society of Antiquaries, as he did from Rev. Gilbert White and William Burrell, while also making his mark as a remarkable caricaturist.

Grimm was also a persistent exhibitor at the Royal Academy in London where his works were widely esteemed. In his travels throughout England and Wales, there was hardly a monument or an ancient ruin that he did not sketch; some of these are the only visual examples of sites that have subsequently disappeared.

When he died on April 14, 1794, artists and antiquarians alike mourned a painter thought to be one of the great artists of the era.