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MINIATURE PASTED ON CARDBOARD. "PORTRAIT OF SULTAN SELIM II"

TURKEY; 1ST QUARTER OF 19TH CENTURY

LEAF: 53 X 40 CM

The Greek painter Konstantin Kapidagli made a series of portraits of 28 sultans on order from Selim III in Istanbul between 1804 and 1806. They were copied by John Young and engraved in London in around 1814. We cannot determine today whether the Turkish artist who made these closely related portraits had access to the originals at Topkapi or the engravings. There are minor differences between them and both models, but the style is still very European.

Selim II (1566-1574) was the quite inconsequential son of Suleyman the Magnificent. While the scene under the sultan in the originals shows the island of Cyprus, which was conquered under Selim, this view, with a funeral in the foreground, cannot be identified.

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