

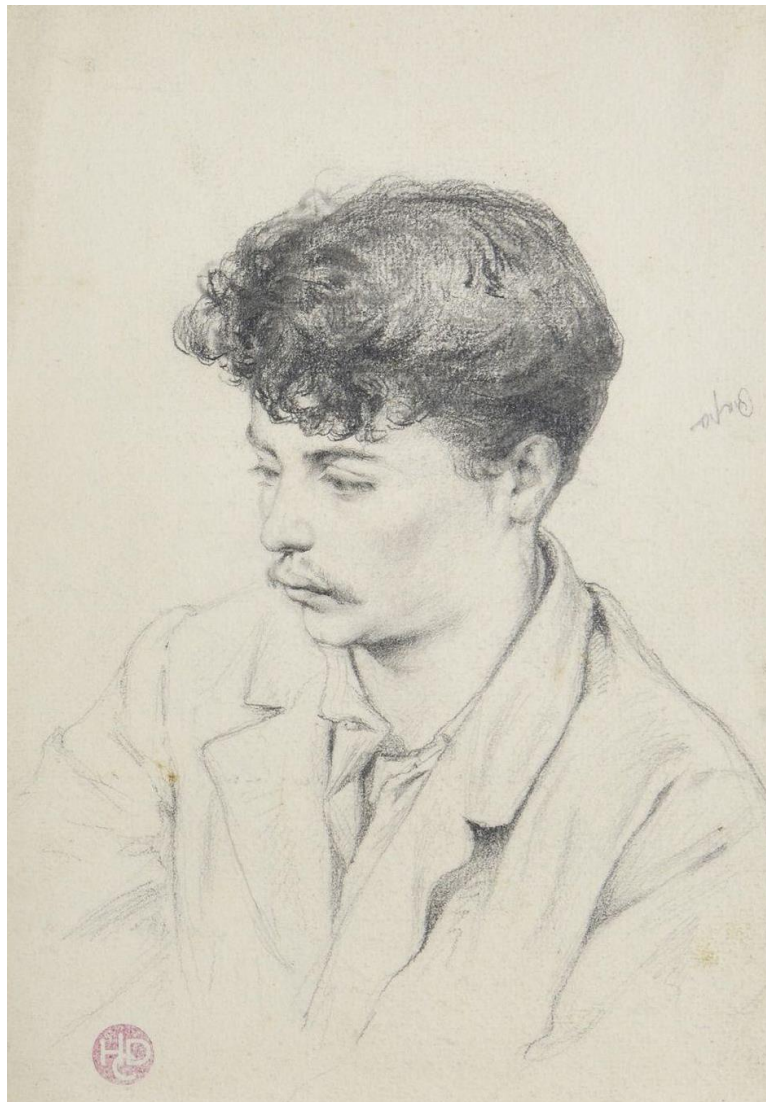
# COLNAGHI ELLIOTT

MASTER DRAWINGS

Henri Courselles-Dumont  
(Paris 1856 – 1918)

*Portrait of a young man looking down*

Atelier stamp lower right: *HCD*  
Pencil on Whatman paper, 1874  
25 x 17.4 cm. (10 x 7 in.)



Son of the engraver Louis Dumont, Henri Courselles-Dumont was born in Paris in 1856. By 1873 the young artist had entered the École de Beaux-Arts, studying under Raphaël Collin, Luc-Olivier Merson and Jules-Élie Delaunay. The latter would have a marked influence on Courselles-Dumont, who became Delaunay's assistant and collaborated with him on frescoes in the Pantheon. Courselles-Dumont exhibited regularly at the Salon from 1882 to 1914 and favoured a Symbolist style inspired by Gustave Moreau. Outside of his frescoes, the artist's most important artistic contribution would be his work as an engraver, illustrating books as well as producing stand-alone engravings. Although a technically very accomplished painter, it is his works on paper and engravings (figs. 1 and 2) which best reflect Courselles-Dumont artistic ability and give greatest expression to his vivid imagination.



Fig. 1, Henri Courselles-Dumont, *Saint George Slaying the Dragon*, watercolour on paper, 46 x 32 cm, Musée de Beaux-Arts de Quimper



Fig. 2, Henri Courselles-Dumont, *Le Lion Amoureux*, etching, 26 x 36 cm, Private Collection

Drawn on Whatman paper produced in 1874, the present work can be dated to this year or soon thereafter, when Courselles-Dumont was studying at the École de Beaux-Arts. The image is likely therefore one of the young artist's contemporaries in a pensive moment, or possibly a self-portrait, with the downy moustache, tousled hair and ruffled attire of an adolescent. Executed with economy and skill, the drawing displays Courselle-Dumont's confidence with the pencil at the end of his teenage years.