



LAURENS, JULES JOSEPH AUGUSTIN

LAURENS, Jules Joseph Augustin, French artist in drawing, painting, and lithography who depicted Oriental and other subjects (b. 26 July 1825 at Carpentras; d. 5 May 1901 at Saint-Didier, Vaucluse). He trained as a pupil of his elder brother, Jean Joseph Bonaventure (1801-90), and then studied at the Beaux-Arts in Paris, where he held his first exhibition in 1840. Chosen almost by chance to accompany [X. Hommaire de Hell](#) in his mission to Turkey and Persia (1846-48), Jules Laurens made over a thousand sketches and drawings of sites and costumes; and he drew many portraits on demand for Persian and European personalities in Persia. In his “Nazar-Andaz” (see bibliography), he related his companion’s last days and death at Isfahan (20 August 1848), which was then in a state of political turmoil. He was able to proceed to Tehran, with many difficulties, only with the help of the French ambassador, Comte de Sartiges. From there he sent back to France Hommaire de Hell’s instruments and notes, together with his own drawings. Hundred of the drawings were presented in the *Atlas*, the fourth volume of the *Voyage en Turquie et en Perse...*, published by Mme Hommaire de Hell from her husband’s journal and notes. Some lithographs which he made from his drawings were published in the popular periodicals *L’Illustration* and *Tour du Monde* (see the latter, 1860, Deuxième Semestre, pp. 17-48, for illustrations to “Voyage en Perse, fragments” by [J. Gobineau](#), an excerpt from his *Trois ans en Asie*). The original watercolors and drawings made in Turkey and Persia were, in part, given to the library of the École des Beaux Arts in Paris.



After his return to France in 1849, Laurens pursued his artistic career in Paris and exhibited paintings and engravings—some with Persian subjects—in almost every exhibition held annually in the Salon de Paris between 1850 and 1891. His vast production not only was seen in Paris (e.g., *Les rochers de Vann* in the Musée d’Orsay), but also reached many regional museums in France, for example, *Campagne de Téhéran* (Avignon), *L’hiver en Perse* (Bagnères), *Ruines de palais persan* (Carpentras), *La mosquée bleue à Tauris* (Montpellier), and *Village fortifié dans le Khorassan* (Toulon). Being a witty and distinguished man, Laurens was very active in Paris literary and artistic salons, where he met many celebrities. At the end of his life, he published *La légende des ateliers*, in which he recounted some anecdotes from his travels.

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