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# Frère, (Pierre) Edouard

(b Paris, Jan 10, 1819; d Ecoen, May 20, 1886).

A. Daguerre de Hureaux

<https://doi.org/10.1093/gao/9781884446054.article.T029862>

**Published online:** 2003

French painter. At the age of 17 he entered the atelier of Paul Delaroche at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. He exhibited regularly at the Salon in Paris from 1842 to 1886 and at the Royal Academy in London from 1868 to 1885. He was the younger brother of the Orientalist painter Théodore Frère (1814–88) and, unlike many other 19th-century artists, preferred not to live in Paris but in Ecoen.

Edouard Frère is known mainly for his peasant scenes, showing daily life in the country, which gained him popularity with the middle class during the Second Empire. He depicted childhood in such paintings as the *Little Cook* (1858; New York, Brooklyn Mus.), showing an interest in the traditional activities of the poor, a novel idea at that time. He specialized in small-scale genre paintings in warm colours and adhered to a narrative approach to dramatic subject-matter that was softened by a sometimes rather affected sentimentality.

Following Frère's association with the dealer Ernest Gambart in 1854, an exhibition of his work was organized in London, where the mediation of fellow artist and critic John Ruskin, who admired him, was a guarantee of success. From the 1880s his work was popular with American collectors. His pupils included George Boughton (1833–1905).

## Bibliography

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