

### JEAN-FRANCOIS MILLET. 1814-1875.

Born at Gruchy, near Cherbourg, of Norman peasant parents who cultivated a small farm. His taste for art developed early, and he received his first regular instruction from Mouchel at Cherbourg in 1832. He made such good progress that the municipality granted him a small pension to enable him to continue his studies in Paris. He went there in 1837, entering the studio of Paul Delaroche, where Diaz and Rousseau became his fellow pupils. Millet first exhibited in the Salon of 1840, showing a portrait. In the same year he returned to Normandy, where he married, and earned his living by painting portraits in Cherbourg. The next year he went back to Paris, where his wife died in a few years. Once again Millet returned to Normandy, and while there married for the second time. The newly-married couple lived for a time at le Havre, where Millet painted portraits and small genre pictures to earn a scanty living. They sought Paris together in 1845 and for a time experienced great hardship. This was an important time in the development of Millet's art; he was passing from mythological and religious pictures to the painting of the peasant types which were afterwards to bring him his greatest fame. "Œdipus" was painted in 1847, "The Winnower" in 1849 and "The Sower" in 1850. In 1849 Millet left Paris for the village of Barbizon in the forest of Fontainebleau and there settled down for the remainder of his life. His circumstances were for many years straightened, his pictures brought small prices and were little appreciated. Recognition came to him at last. He was awarded a second-class medal at the Salon of 1853. The "Angelus du soir" was exhibited in 1859; its first sale was for 1500 francs its last for 800,000 francs. In 1867 he was awarded a first-class medal at the Paris Universal Exhibition, and received the decoration of the Legion of Honour. In 1872 was exhibited one of his most famous pictures, "The Vine Dresser Resting" and the following year he was commissioned to decorate one of the chapels of the Pantheon. Millet died at Barbizon.

63. ŒDIPUS TAKEN FROM THE TREE. 52½ by 29½.

### GERALD MOIRA.

Born in London. Studied at the Royal Academy Schools, London, and in Paris.

64. A JULY DAY. 93½ by 109.