



Frans Francken (?)

Hochzeit zu Kanaa (Marriage at Cana)

Oil on wood, 53.5 x 71.5 cm

on recto, centre right, artist's monogram (?)

on verso, upper left, inscribed in white chalk: "B" or alternatively "W"; markings partially concealed by vertical stretchers: "C° M° (...)", "M" and "N° 70 (?)".

on frame verso, at centre, inscribed in blue pen: "Wie 1951/6"; label at upper centre: "Franken, um 16. DM 1200.-"

Provenance:

(...)

By latest 1945: Hildebrand Gurlitt, Aschbach

1945–1950: Central Collecting Point Wiesbaden, no. WIE 1951/6

From 15 December 1950: Hildebrand Gurlitt, Dusseldorf

By descent to Cornelius Gurlitt, Munich/Salzburg

From 6 May 2014: Estate of Cornelius Gurlitt

Primary sources:

National Archives, College Park, Maryland (NARA):

M1947, Wiesbaden Central Collecting Point, Property card no. WIE 1951/6

www.fold3.com/image/231981505/ (2 September 2014)

Ardelia Hall Collection: Munich Administrative Records, Restitution Research Records, Interrogation: Statements of Art Dealers

www.fold3.com/image/270046019, www.fold3.com/image/270046020/ (2 September 2014)

Seizure Inventory [Sicherstellungsverzeichnis], 2012, no. SV (Part 2)/99

Further sources consulted:

k. k. Ministerium für Cultus und Unterricht (Wilhelm Freiherr von Weckbecker), ed. *Handbuch der Kunstpflege in Österreich*. Vienna: k. k. Schulbücher-Verlag, 1902, p. 291.

Versteigerung der Gemäldesammlung Hofrat Professor Adam Politzer (...). Auct. cat., Auktionshaus für Altertümer Glückselig & Wärndorfer, Vienna, 7–9 December 1920.

Lugt, Frits. *Les Marques de Collections de Dessins et d'Estampes* (Amsterdam: Vereenigde Drukkerijen, 1921; supplement, The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff, 1956), nos. 2037, 2741; supplement no. 2741.

Sammlung des in Wien verstorbenen Hofrats Professor Dr. A. Politzer und geringe Beiträge aus anderem Besitz (= Katalog 103). Auct. cat., Amsler & Ruthardt, Berlin, 18–20 May 1922.

Sammlung Hofrat Professor Dr. Politzer. Auct. cat., Kunstantiquariat Ignaz Schwarz, Vienna, 12–14 June 1922.

Nachlässe Hofrat Prof. Dr. Adam Politzer Wien, Hofrat Franz Breitfelder, Wien, nebst Beiträgen aus Wiener Privatbesitz (= 92. Kunstauktion). Auct. cat., Albert Kende, Vienna, 23–25 February 1928.

Vente Tableaux anciens et modernes (...). Auct. cat., Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 25 June 1943.

Härtling, Ursula Alice. *Studien zur Kabinettbildmalerei des Frans Franken II. 1581–1642: Ein repräsentativer Werkkatalog*. Hildesheim: Georg Olms 1983.

Papier ist doch weiss? Exh. Cat., Jüdisches Museum der Stadt Wien, 30 January–22 March 1998, pp. 84–87.

Lillie, Sophie. *Klimt's Women Collectors: The Pulitzer Sisters Szerena Lederer, Jenny Steiner and Aranka Munk*. Doctoral diss. [unpublished], Universität Wien, 2014. Chapter on the Politzer collection, pp. 127–139.

Peeters, Natasja. *Frans Francken de Oude (ca. 1542–1616): Leven en werken van een Antwerps historieschilder*. Leuven: Peeters Pub, 2013.

Brandenburger Landeshauptarchiv, Potsdam:

Rep. 36 A OFP Brandenburg (II), no. 10224

Bundesamt für zentrale Dienst und offene Vermögensfragen, Berlin:

nos. 74 WGA 1242/67; 74 WGA 1243/67; A 2070-Geb.B, no. 35176

Bundesdenkmalamt, Vienna:

export files 1920s

Institut national d'histoire de l'art, Paris:

French sale catalogues

Josephinum, Vienna:

Photo Archive

Jüdisches Museum Berlin:

Convolute 156, Max Friedländer Collection

Jüdisches Museum Wien:

Adam Politzer Papers

Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien

Landesamt für Bürger- und Ordnungsangelegenheiten, Berlin:
nos. 342840; 342790

Landesarchiv Berlin:
A Pr Br Rep. 042, no. 8982;
A Rep 342, no. 17.554;
B Rep 025-07, nos. 74 WGA 1242/67, 74 WGA 1244/67

Österreichische Galerie Belvedere

Österreichisches Staatsarchiv, Vienna
Archiv der Republik, 06, FLD no. 14.784

Wien Bibliothek:
Manuscripts Collection, correspondence Alice Friedländer

Wiener Stadt- und Landesarchiv:
Bezirksgericht Innere Stadt, probate nos. A III 100/20, 2A 28/28

Zentralarchiv Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

Business records Hildebrand Gurlitt
Correspondence Hildebrand Gurlitt
Cultural Plunder by the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg: Database of Art Objects at the Jeu de Paume
Database "Central Collecting Point München"
Database "Kunstsammlung Hermann Göring"
Getty Provenance Index, German Sales Catalogs
Lootedart.com
Lost Art
Répertoire des Biens Spoliés
Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie
Verzeichnis national wertvoller Kunstwerke ("Reichsliste von 1938")
Witt Library

Note:

In a sworn statement submitted to the Central Collecting Point Wiesbaden in 1945, Hildebrand Gurlitt claimed that he had acquired this work from Miss Ursula Diederich of Hamburg in 1936. Shortly thereafter, he retracted on this statement, identifying the work as the erstwhile property of his late father, the art historian Cornelius Gurlitt.

Frans Francken painted numerous variants of the motif *Marriage at Cana* (sometimes erroneously referred to as *Marriage at Canaan*). The different versions of the painting fall into two basic compositions: One depicts a wedding party seated at a table, under a canopy, with Jesus at left, performing the miracle of turning water into wine. The second variant is a view of the wedding party with Jesus at right, blessing the wine. Owing to the fact that the Francken family comprised

three generations of painters who emulated each other's style and shared popular motifs, authorship of individual works is often disputed.

Research showed that one variant of *Marriage at Cana* attributed to Frans Francken was owned by the renowned otologist Professor Adam Politzer of Vienna (1835 Alberti–1920 Vienna). Following his death, this work passed to his daughter Alice Friedländer (1864 Vienna–1949 Los Angeles), and Politzer's grandson. From the early 1920s until 1936, the painting was kept in the Friedländer residence in Berlin, first in Charlottenburg, and in Wilmersdorf thereafter. Following the family's flight from Nazi Germany, the Politzer variant was among Friedländer property forcibly sold at public auction in 1943.

A wide range of archival records was consulted with the objective of identifying the Franz Francken painting originating in the collection of the late Adam Politzer. Despite these diligent efforts, no description of the size, medium or composition of the Politzer work could so far be found.

In the course of its systematic investigation of French auction catalogues, the Taskforce identified one painting described as "School of Francken" that was offered for sale at Hôtel Drouot, Paris, on 25 June 1943. The title, medium and measurements of that work (lot 128) are very similar (possibly identical) to those of the work found in the Schwabing Art Trove. Further research is on-going.

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