



Anton Graff

Bildnis Johanna Dorothea Richter, der Mutter Ludwig Richters (Portrait of Johanna Dorothea Richter, Ludwig Richter's mother), c. 1813

Oil on canvas, 57.4 x 46.7 cm (64.5 x 58.0 x 6.4 cm)

on recto, frame, lower centre, plate engraved: "Anton Graff 1736-1813 Bildnis der Mutter Ludwig Richters"

on verso, frame, lower left, remnant of a label of the shipping company Gustav Knauer; lower right, inscribed in blue: "139" [in circle]

on stretcher, centre left, purple stamp: "56"; upper centre, inscribed in blue: "Gurlitt [...]"; upper centre, purple stamp: "46"; upper right, handwritten label: "16."; centre right, purple stamp: "56"; lower right, inscribed in blue: "139" [in circle], lower centre, purple stamp: "46"

canvas relined and mounted on new stretcher

Provenance:

(...)

Acquired in Paris in 1943 through Theo Hermsen Jr. by Hildebrand Gurlitt, Dresden

By latest 2012: Cornelius Gurlitt, Munich/Salzburg

From 6 May 2014: Estate of Cornelius Gurlitt

Bibliographical references:

*500 Handzeichnungen und Aquarelle alter und neuer Meister: Sammlung M***-Dresden und aus anderem Besitz* (=Antiquariatskatalog Nr. 318). Auct. cat., Zahn & Jaensch, Dresden, n.d. [related to no. 107, ill.]

Berckenhagen, Ekhart. *Anton Graff: Leben und Werk*. Berlin: Deutscher Verlag für Kunstwissenschaft, 1967. [no. 1164, listed as whereabouts unknown]

Primary sources:

Ministère des Affaires étrangères, Archives diplomatiques, Paris:
Achats allemands en France, nos. 209SUP/824, 209SUP/389 [11 December 1942]
Demandes de licences d'exportation, nos. 209SUP/869 [19 January 1943]

Business records Hildebrand Gurlitt – references:

Sales ledger 1937–41: 12 November 1938 [no. 54]
 4 February 1942 [no. 136]
Sales ledger 1937–?: 1938 [no. 1140]
 4 February 1942 [no. 1140]

Business records Hildebrand Gurlitt – possible references:

Sales ledger 1937–41: 20 September 1943 [no. 1797]
Sales ledger 1937–?: 20 September 1943 [no. 1797]
 1944 [no. 1797]

Correspondence Hildebrand Gurlitt:

24 February 1948 [vol. 9, fol. 171f.]

Cornelius Gurlitt Papers, Salzburg:

Photographs, no. 7.1_F766 [11 August 1938]

Seizure Inventory [Sicherstellungsverzeichnis], 2012, no. SV (Part 2)/091

Further sources consulted:

Muther, Richard. *Anton Graff*. Doctoral Diss., Leipzig: E.A. Seemann, 1881.

Vogel, Julius. *Anton Graff: Bildnisse von Zeitgenossen des Meisters in Nachbildungen der Originale*. Leipzig: Breitkopf & Härtel, 1898.

Waser, Otto. *Anton Graff von Winterthur: Bildnisse des Meisters*. Zurich and Leipzig: Kunstverein Winterthur, 1903.

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:

Portrait of Johanna Dorothea Richter, née Müller, the wife of the artist Karl August Richter. The couple's eldest son was the well-known landscape painter Ludwig Richter (1803 Dresden–1884 Dresden). A preliminary study for this portrait, rendered in black crayon with white heightening, is also known (Berckenhagen, no. 1163).

According to the extant sale ledgers, Hildebrand Gurlitt purchased a work described as Anton Graff, *Mother of L. Richter*, from the art dealer Paul Rusch of Dresden on 12 November 1938 for the sum of 2,000 reichmarks. He thereafter noted the sale of same work in February 1942 to Erich Hoefers for just 645 reichmarks.

An entry dated 20 September 1943 notes the acquisition from Theo Hermsen of another Graff female portrait for the sum of 12,000 reichmarks.

The personal papers found in Cornelius Gurlitt's Salzburg home include a collection of about 2,400 photographs of artworks. Photograph no. 7.1_F766 is a reproduction of this work; on verso, a handwritten object description; at lower right, company stamp of the photographer Bergmann und Burchardi of Dresden, Wallstrasse 1. Attached to this photograph, a typed statement of authenticity by the art historian Karl Wilhelm Jähnig dated 11 August 1938.

The Cornelius Gurlitt Papers also contain a letter of 24 February 1948 from Wolfgang Balzer, then director of the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden, confirming the identity of the sitter as Ludwig Richter's mother.

The numbers stamped in purple on the painting support refers to the stretcher size (metric measurement).

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