



Alessandro Magnasco

L'organista ed i suoi allievi (The Organist and His Students)

Oil on canvas, 43 x 29.3 cm (51.8 x 38 cm)

on verso, frame, centre left, inscribed in pencil: "7014"; upper left, label of framing company: "F.G. CONZEN RAHMENFABRIK DÜSSELDORF"

on verso, stretcher, upper right, inscribed in red chalk: "Dr. Gurlitt"; lower centre, handwritten label: "Miss Chamberlayne"

Provenance:

(...)

Miss Chamberlayne (?) (per inscription & exh. cat.)

Gustavo Botta, Milan

Benno Geiger, Venice (per Muti and de Sarno & Geiger)

By 1929: with Arthur Sambon, Paris (per exh. cat.)

Possibly Carlo Levi-Broglio, Paris

Possibly acquired from the above after 1935, Hildebrand Gurlitt (?)

Probably by descent Cornelius Gurlitt, Munich/Salzburg

From 6 May 2014: Estate of Cornelius Gurlitt

Exhibitions:

Alessandro Magnasco: catalogue des œuvres de ce Maître. Galerie Sambon, Paris, 22 May–12 June 1929. [no. 3, pl. III]

Il Settecento Italiano, Venice, 1929 [no. 16-1, ill.]

Exposition de l'art italien de Cimabue à Tiepolo. Exh. cat., Petit Palais, Paris, June–July 1935. [no. 271]

Bibliographical references:

Le Figaro artistique illustré, vol. VI, no. 234 (May 1929), p. 544.

L'amour de l'art, 1929, p. 349.

Geiger, Benno. *Magnasco*. Bergamo: Istituti italiano d'arti grafiche, 1949. [p. 127, pl. 160]

Muti, Laura, and Daniele de Sarno Prignano. *Alessandro Magnasco*. Faenza: Edit Faenza, 1994. [cat. no. 275, pl. 330]

Primary source:

Cornelius Gurlitt Papers, Salzburg:
Catalogues, no. 15.2_1503 [Exh. cat., Paris, 1935]

Correspondence Hildebrand Gurlitt – reference:
3 January 1948 (vol. 6, fol. 218]

Correspondence Hildebrand Gurlitt – possible reference:
4 June 1959 [vol. 5, fol. 104f.]

Witt Library, London:
Folder Alessandro Magnasco

Seizure Inventory [Sicherstellungsverzeichnis], 2012, no. SV Liste 1/6

Further sources consulted:

Grosso, Orlando, ed. *Catalogo della Galleria di Palazzo Bianco*. Genoa: Galleria di Palazzo Bianco, 1912.

Geiger, Benno. *Alessandro Magnasco*. Berlin: Cassirer, 1914.

Alessandro Magnasco 1667–1749. Exh. cat., Galerie Alfred Flechtheim, Dusseldorf, 2–22 May 1920.

Geiger, Benno. *Alessandro Magnasco: 1667–1749*. Vienna: Krystall, 1923.

Bonzi, Mario. *Saggi sul Magnasco*. Genoa: Italica, 1947.

Genoese masters: Cambiaso to Magnasco 1550–1750. Exh. cat., Dayton Art Institute, Ohio, 19 October–2 December 1962.

Alessandro Magnasco: 1667–1749. Exh. cat., Palazzo Reale, Milan, 21 March–7 July 1996.

Business Records 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:

This work is the companion piece of Magnasco's painting *The Magic Lantern* (Lost Art ID: 478476).

In his 1949 monograph on Magnasco, the scholar Benno Geiger notes that the collection Chamberlayne was invented, suggesting that the provenance referred to in the exhibition catalogue of Galerie Sambon and on verso is in fact false.

Moreover, Geiger notes that this painting, together with its pair, *The Magic Lantern*, was sold after 1935 to a German collector through the Parisian dealer Carlo Levi-Broglio. Based on Hildebrand Gurlitt's extant correspondence, it is evident that both Hildebrand Gurlitt and Gitta Gurlitt knew Broglio and frequently visited him in Paris. Hypothetically, this may suggest that Gurlitt was possibly said German collector, referred to by Geiger.

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