

Jean-François Millet

Paysage (Hillocky Landscape)

Ink and watercolour on paper, 110 x 167 mm on recto, lower right, stamp: "J. F. M." [Lugt 1460] on mount, printed: "J. F. MILLET" on matting verso, upper right, inscribed in pencil: "350,-", "779"

on frame, upper centre, inscribed in red: "(125)"

Provenance:

Estate of the artist

Sale: Vente Millet, Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 10–11 May 1875 (per stamp)

(...)

Acquired by Hildebrand Gurlitt in France, c. 1942 By descent to Cornelius Gurlitt, Munich/Salzburg From 6 May 2014: Estate of Cornelius Gurlitt

Bibliographical references:

Catalogue de la vente aui aura lieu par suite du décés de Jean-François Millet. Auct. cat., Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 10–11 May 1875.

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Primary sources:

Business records Hildebrand Gurlitt:

Sale ledger 1937–41 28 May 1942

20 June 1942 [no. 139]

Correspondence Hildebrand Gurlitt:

26 September 1947 [vol. 10, fol. 445; vol. 12, fol. 334]

Cornelius Gurlitt Papers, Salzburg:

Correspondence, ref. no. in process [21 August 1947, 4 October 1947, 2 December 1947]

National Archives, College Park, Maryland (NARA):

Ardelia Hall Collection, Munich Collecting Point, 1945–1951. Statement Hildebrand Gurlitt, 26 September 1947

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Folder Jean-François Millet [variant composition]

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Cultural Plunder by the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg: Database of Art Objects at the Jeu de Paume

Database "Central Collecting Point München"

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Lootedart.com

Lost Art

Répertoire des Biens Spoliés

Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie

Verzeichnis national wertvoller Kunstwerke ("Reichsliste von 1938")

Witt Library

Note:

The Millet drawings found in the Schwabing Art Trove are typical of his oeuvre during his residence near Fontainebleau, where he arrived in 1871. He concentrated on capturing the landscape and the humble inhabitants of this region.

The stamp "J.F.M" [Lugt 1460] indicates that the work was part of the estate sale following the artist's death in 1875. As the catalogue is not illustrated and does not include measurements, an identification of the work was not possible.

According to the extant sale ledgers, this was one of about forty works that Gurlitt claimed to have acquired from the art dealer Jean Lenthal in Paris on 20 June 1942. Research by the Taskforce revealed these to be false entries. Post-war correspondence between Gurlitt and Lenthal, which was found in Cornelius Gurlitt's Salzburg residence, proved that Gurlitt coerced Lenthal into issuing fake receipts for works that Lenthal never owned or sold. Gurlitt provided Lenthal with a statement to this effect in 1947.

Jean Lenthal (recte Hans Loewenthal, 1914 Vienna–1983 Paris) was an art dealer in Paris. On account of his Jewish descent, Lenthal was deported in 1943, first to Drancy and thereafter to Auschwitz, Sachsenhausen and Mauthausen concentration camps. After the liberation in 1945, Lenthal returned to live in Paris where he resumed his art dealership.

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