



**François Boucher**

**Portrait d'une fillette (Portrait of a young girl)**

Pastel on paper, 264 x 197 mm

on verso, at centre, inscribed in pencil: "Boucher"; lower right, in blue soft pencil: "14"

**Provenance:**

Jean-Claude Gaspar de Sireul

Sale: Vente Sireul, Boileau, Paris, 3 December 1781, lot 63

Acquired at the above sale, Monsieur Saillette (?) (per annotated auct. cat.)

(...)

Louis Gaston Le Breton, Rouen

Sale: Vente Le Breton, Galerie Georges Petit, Paris, 6–8 December 1921, lot 36

(...)

By 1932: Roger Delapalme, Paris (per exh. cat.)

Acquired after February 1941: Hildebrand Gurlitt, Hamburg (per Cornelius Gurlitt Papers)

By descent to Cornelius Gurlitt, Munich/Salzburg

From 6 May 2014: Estate of Cornelius Gurlitt

**Exhibitions:**

*Exposition François Boucher*, Hôtel Jean Charpentier, 9 June–10 July 1932. [no. 103]

**Bibliographical references:**

*Catalogue des tableaux et dessins précieux: qui composent le cabinet de M. de Sireul*. Auct. cat., Boileau, Paris, 3 December 1781. [lot 63] An annotated copy available online: <http://bibliotheque-numerique.inha.fr/collection/14505-catalogue-des-tableaux-et-dessins-precieux-qui-co/>

*Catalogue des dessins et tableaux anciens et modern*. Auct. cat., Galerie Georges Petit, 6–8 December 1921. [lot 36]

Ananoff, Alexandre. *L'Œuvre dessiné de François Boucher (1703–1770)*. Paris: F. de Nobele, 1966. [vol. 1, no. 301, fig. 59]

**Primary sources:**

Business records Hildebrand Gurlitt – possible references:

Sales ledger 1937–41:        23 July 1942 [no. 152]  
   23 July 1942 [no. 139]

Sales ledger 1937–?:        23 July 1942 [no. 1620]  
   Note [no. 42]

Cornelius Gurlitt Papers, Salzburg:

Appraisal François Max-Kann, no. 12\_1227 [25 February 1941]

Supplement List François Max-Kann [“Betr. Dr. Gurlitt”], reference no. in process [n.d.]

Correspondence Hildebrand Gurlitt – possible reference:

3 January 1948 [vol. 6, fol. 218]

Seizure Inventory [Sicherstellungsverzeichnis], 2012, no. SV 41/121

Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie, The Hague:

Folder Boucher [Vente Le Breton I, Paris 1921, no. 36, ill.]

Witt Library, London:

Folder François Boucher [Le Breton Sale, Petit, Paris, 8. Dez 1921, ill.]

**Further sources consulted:**

Ananoff, Alexandre. *François Boucher*. Lausanne and Paris: Bibl. des Arts, 1976.

Ananoff, Alexandre, and Daniel Wildenstein. *L'opera completa di Boucher*. Milan: Rizzoli, 1980.

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

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Verzeichnis national wertvoller Kunstwerke ("Reichsliste von 1938")

**Note:**

Among the earliest known owners of this work were Jean-Claude Gaspar de Sireul, a collector of Boucher works, and Gaston Le Breton (1845–1920), the director general of the museums of the city of Rouen.

By 1932, the drawing had been acquired by Roger Delapalme (1892 Paris–1969 Paris), the son of the public notary Pierre-Marie Delapalme. Roger Delapalme was professionally employed in the management of the Compagnie des Courtiers Jurés d'assurances, an insurance company, where he served first as Treasurer and then as Deputy Director. His wife Yvonne was the daughter of Henry Chabert, the director of the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas. The couple lived in Paris at 92, rue de Richelieu.

The extant papers of Cornelius Gurlitt contain an inventory of art works said to belong to Roger Delapalme of Paris, 65, rue La Boétie, as appraised by the art expert François Max-Kann in early 1941. This appraisal itemizes 40 lots (comprising a total of 44 artworks), including this Boucher drawing.

The Taskforce was able to confirm Roger Delapalme's ownership by latest 1932, when he loaned this work to a Boucher exhibition. While the exact circumstances of the transaction are not yet known, it is most likely that Gurlitt acquired these works after February 1941, possibly through Max-Kann who may have acted as intermediary.

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