



Adolph von Menzel

Inneres einer gotischen Kirche (Interior of a Gothic Church), 1874

Pencil on paper, 201 x 126 mm

on recto, lower right, signed in pencil: "A.M.74"

on verso, inscribed in pencil: "6", "2809", "Kirche in Hofgastein 5.5"

inside matting, inscribed: "Menzel", "5412" [sic!], "1000"

Provenance:

(...)

From 1903: Dr. Albert Martin Wolffson, Hamburg (per Bruhns)

By descent to Elsa Helene Cohen, née Wolffson

31 December 1938: Hildebrand Gurlitt, Hamburg, acquired from the above

By descent to Cornelius Gurlitt, Munich/Salzburg

From 6 May 2014: Estate of Cornelius Gurlitt

Exhibitions:

Ausstellung von Werken Adolph Menzels 1905. Königliche National-Galerie, Berlin, 1905. [no. 5421]

Zeichnungen von Adolph von Menzel. Kunstkabinett Gurlitt, Hamburg, January 1939. (?)

Adolph Menzel 1815–1905. Galerie Gerstenberger, Chemnitz, 23 June–15 July 1939. [no. 19]

Bibliographical references:

Bruhns, Maike. *Kunst in der Krise*. Vol. 1: *Hamburger Kunst im 'Dritten Reich'*. Hamburg: Dölling und Galitz, 2001. [p. 259 f.]

Ulrich Luckhardt and Uwe M. Schneede, *Private Schätze: Über das Sammeln von Kunst in Hamburg bis 1933*. Hamburg: Christians, 2001. [pp. 89, 253, 261]

Primary sources:

Business records Hildebrand Gurlitt:

Sales ledger 1937–41: 31 December 1938 [no. 45]

Sales ledger 1937–?: 31 December 1938 [no. 1182]

Business records Hildebrand Gurlitt – possible reference:

Sales ledger 1937–?: 17 January 1939 [no. 1182]

Correspondence Hildebrand Gurlitt:

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

Correspondence Hildebrand Gurlitt – possible reference:

22 May 1946 [vol. 10, fol. 338f.]

Cornelius Gurlitt Papers, Salzburg

Catalogues, no. 13.2_1314 [Königliche National-Galerie, 1905; ex libris Dr. Ernst Wolffson]

Staatsarchiv Hamburg:

Oberfinanzpräsident no. 314-15R 1938/1394

Amt für Wiedergutmachung, no. 351-11/25224

Seizure Inventory [Sicherstellungsverzeichnis], 2012, no. SV 34/042

Further sources consulted:

Tschudi, Hugo von, ed. *Adolph von Menzel: Abbildungen seiner Gemälde und Studien*. Munich: Bruckmann, 1906.

Wolff, Hans, ed. *Zeichnungen von Adolph Menzel*. Dresden: Arnold, 1920.

Ebertshäuser, Heidi. *Adolph von Menzel: Das Graphische Werk*. Munich: Rogner & Bernhard, 1976.

Menzel: der Beobachter. Exh. cat., Kunsthalle, Hamburg, 22 May–25 July 1982.

Eva Kaspers, and Dagmar Lott-Reschke. 'Kunstwerke, die mich angehen': Der Sammler Hermann F. Reemtsma (1892–1961). Hamburg: Ernst Barlach Haus, 1992. [related to cat. nos. 82–86, ill. 43–47]

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:

Dr. Albert Martin Wolffson (1874–1913) was a prominent attorney in Hamburg. His collection comprised over sixty oils and pastels by artists such as Max Liebermann, Gustave Courbet, Claude Monet and Franz Lenbach, as well as a collection of 36 drawings by Adolph Menzel, and over 900 engravings and prints. Following Wolffson's death in 1913, some works were acquired by the Kunsthalle in Hamburg, while others were sold by his widow, Helene Wolffson (d. 1925).

Those works that were retained by the family passed to the Wolffsons' two children, the physician Dr. Ernst Julius Wolffson (1881–1955) and Elsa Helene Cohen (1874–1947).

According to an entry in Gurlitt's business records, this drawing was one of a total of ten works that Elsa Cohen sold to the art dealer on 31 December 1938. The purchase price of this work is given as 150 reichmarks; however, it is unclear whether Cohen ever received this sum. Shortly thereafter, Gurlitt sold several of the Wolffson Menzel drawings to the collector Hermann Reemtsma. Gurlitt incorrectly noted that the sale to Reemtsma also included this sheet.

Elsa Cohen fled Germany in August 1941, and was ultimately reunited with her son, who had managed to flee to the United States with his wife and two children in January 1939. The proximity between the sale date (December 1938) and the Cohen family's flight from Germany strongly suggests that this was a forced sale. Other parts of the Wolffson collection were forcibly sold through the art dealer Commeter from April 1939.

Hildebrand Gurlitt's correspondence includes a reference to a Menzel drawing titled *Kircheninneres* that was sent to a restorer in January 1948.

In the mid-1950s, the Wolffson heirs attempted, albeit unsuccessfully, to recover the family's Menzel drawings; Gurlitt claimed that all business records had been destroyed during the war.

The personal papers found in Cornelius Gurlitt's Salzburg home include an annotated catalogue of the Menzel exhibition of 1905; that catalogue marked as property of Dr. Ernst Wolffson.

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