



**Jean-François Millet**

**Woman reading a letter at the bedside**

Pencil on paper, 60 x 92 mm

on recto, lower right, black stamp: "J.F.M." [Lugt 1460]

on verso, lower right, inscribed in pencil: "8977"; drawing of hands holding crossed legs

**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:**

Lugt, Frits. *Les Marques de Collections de Dessins & d'Estampes*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed., Amsterdam: Vereenigde Drukkerijen, 1921; supplement, The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff, 1956. [no. L.1460]  
[www.marquedescollections.fr/detail.cfm/marque/7753/total/1](http://www.marquedescollections.fr/detail.cfm/marque/7753/total/1) (6 July 2015)

**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

[www.fold3.com/image/270055508/](http://www.fold3.com/image/270055508/)

Yad Vashem Archives, Jerusalem:

International Tracing Service

Witt Library, London:

Folder Jean-François Millet [variant composition]

Seizure Inventory [Sicherstellungsverzeichnis], 2012, no. SV 41/043

#### Further sources consulted:

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

Sensier, Alfred. *La vie et l'œuvre de Jean-François Millet*. Paris: Quantin, 1881.

Cartwright, Julia. *Jean-François Millet: His Life and Letters*. London: Swan Sonnenschein and New York: The Macmillan Company, 1896.

Gensel, Walther. *Millet und Rousseau*. Vol. 57 of *Künstlermonographien*. Bielefeld: Velhagen & Klasing, 1902.

Peacock, Netta. *Millet*. London: Methuen, 1905.

Hoerber, Arthur. *The Barbizon Painters*. New York: The Mentor Association, 1914.

Moreau-Nélaton, Etienne. *Millet: raconté par lui-même*. Paris: Henri Laurens, 1921.

*Graphik und Handzeichnungen des 19. und 20. Jahrhunderts (= Auktion 72)*. Auct. cat., Paul Graupe, Berlin, 5–7 May 1927.

*Antiquitäten, Gemälde, modernes Mobiliar (= Katalog 2094)*. Auct. cat. Rudolph Lepke's Kunst-Auctions-Haus, Berlin, 1-2 November 1935.

*Dessins de Jean-François Millet*. Exh. cat., Musée du Louvre, Paris, 1960.

Mégret, Frédéric. "Millet, l'apôtre des paysans." In *Connaissance des Arts 251*, Paris, 1973.

Bacou, Roseline. *Millet. One hundred drawings*. London: Harper & Row 1975.

Herbert, Robert L., ed. *Jean-François Millet*. Exh. cat., Grand Palais, Paris, 1975.

Fermigier, André. *Jean-François Millet*. Geneva: Skira 1979.

Murphy, Alexandra. *Jean-François Millet*. Boston: Little, Brown & Co, 1984.

Laughton, Bruce. *The Drawings of Daumier and Millet*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1991.

Meyer, Andrea. "Zwischen Original und (Ver-)Fälschung: Werke von Jean-François Millet in deutschem Privatbesitz." In: *Geschmacksgeschichte(n). Öffentliches und privates Kunstsammeln in Deutschland 1871–1933*, ed. Ulrike Wolff-Thomsen and Sven Kuhrau. Kiel: Ludwig, 2011.

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:**

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.

**Disclaimer:**

The research of the Taskforce Schwabing Art Trove focused exclusively on the provenance of the artwork described in this report. This report does not purport to make pronouncements on any legal claims and legal positions. The head of the Taskforce Schwabing Art Trove is responsible for the contents and the publication of this report.

The Taskforce endeavoured to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information provided. No liability will be accepted for the accuracy of the used sources; the facts, and conclusions contained therein; the exhaustiveness of research and evaluation of the available source material; any analyses or conclusions drawn from the sources in the course of research; the findings on the subject of the report and how they were derived; the authenticity of the artwork, its attribution to a particular artist, or its monetary value; and/or conclusions drawn by third parties based on this report.

This report is based on the sources available at the time it was written. It is an interim report that may be revised and updated, should additional relevant material be discovered. The Taskforce Schwabing Art Trove welcomes any information that may augment or clarify the provenance of this work.