



**Jean-François Millet**  
**Arbres (Trees)**

Ink on paper, 96 x 162 mm

on recto, lower left, black stamp: "J. F. M." [Lugt 1460]; printed on matting: "J. F. MILLET"  
 on cardboard backing, upper left, inscribed in pencil: "22370", "426"; at centre, in black ink: "36"  
 on frame, at top: illegible inscriptions in blue crayon, partly concealed by tape

**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 28 April 1944: with Raphaël Gérard, Paris (per Cornelius Gurlitt Papers)

By September 1953: Hildebrand Gurlitt, Dusseldorf (per Cornelius Gurlitt Papers)

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.marquesdecollections.fr/detail.cfm/marque/7753/total/1](http://www.marquesdecollections.fr/detail.cfm/marque/7753/total/1) (7 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:

List Raphaël Gérard, reference no. in process, [28 April 1944], [item no. 36]

List of artworks with Raphaël Gérard, reference no. in process, [c. September 1953], [item no. 36]

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 (Part 2)/074

#### Further sources consulted:

*Catalogue de la vente qui aura lieu par suite du décès de Jean-François Millet*. Auct. cat., Hotel Drôuot, 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.

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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*, no. 251, January 1973.

Bacou, Roseline. *Millet: One Hundred Drawings*. London: Harper & Row 1975.

*Jean-François Millet*. Exh. cat., Grand Palais, Paris, 1975.

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

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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 drawings by Millet 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 after the artist's death in 1875.

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.

This work was one of over 70 works with the art dealer Raphaël Gérard in Paris in 1944. It is unclear whether at the time Gérard and/or Gurlitt owned or co-owned these works, whether they had been placed on commission, or indeed simply deposited with Gérard. It is conspicuous that an inventory of works with Gérard was drawn up in the very late stages of the war; one possible hypothesis is that Gurlitt placed for safekeeping with Gérard works that he had acquired in occupied Paris, with the intention of moving these objects at a later date. This particular work strongly supports this hypothesis.

In 1953, some of these works were shipped to Gurlitt in Dusseldorf, while others remained with Gérard until 1957 (at Gurlitt's cost). The inscription "36" on verso refers to two inventories of artworks with Gérard, one dated 28 April 1944, the other from about September 1953. This work is respectively referred to herein as "Millet, Petit dessin à la plume, (paysage)" (1944) and "Millet, Kleine Landschaft, Federzchg" (1953).

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