



**Northern German School, Late Sixteenth Century**  
**Follower of Bartholomäus Spranger**  
**Neptun und Coenis (Neptune and Coenis), c. 1580**

Oil on wood, 41 x 31.5 cm

on verso, upper left, typewritten label: "Bartholomäus Spranger. Anvers 1546–1627 Prag. Bilder von seiner Hand in allen grossen Museen der Welt. DM 850.-"; upper left, handwritten label: "1951/7", "Fot"; upper right, label: "613", "Regal 232"; centre left, inscribed in red and blue: "Wie 1951/7"; centre right, in black: "Aldegover"; lower left, in pencil: "Spranger"

**Provenance:**

Frau Major B. (?) (per auct. cat.)

Possible sale: Kunsthaus Heinrich Hahn, Frankfurt am Main, 25 June 1935, lot 104

(...)

By latest 1945: Hildebrand Gurlitt, Aschbach

1945–1950 Central Collecting Point Wiesbaden, no. WIE 1951/7

From 15 December 1950: Hildebrand Gurlitt, Dusseldorf

By descent to Cornelius Gurlitt, Munich/Salzburg

From 6 May 2014: Estate of Cornelius Gurlitt

**Bibliographical references:**

*Gemälde, Plastik, Möbel, Kunstgewerbe, Perserteppiche (= Auktion XLIV)*. Auct. cat., Kunsthaus Heinrich Hahn, Frankfurt am Main, 25 June 1935. [lot 104, as *Poseidon and Amphitrite*]

*Bartholomäus Spranger: Splendor and Eroticism in Imperial Prague*. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, 4 November 2014–1 February 2015. [p. 284]

**Primary sources:**

National Archives, College Park, Maryland (NARA):  
M1947, Wiesbaden Central Collecting Point, Property Card no. WIE 1951/7  
[www.fold3.com/image/231952130/](http://www.fold3.com/image/231952130/) (23 July 2015)

Witt Library, London:  
Folder Bartholomaeus Spranger [preliminary study]

Seizure Inventory [Sicherstellungsverzeichnis], 2012, no. SV (Part 2)/136

**Further sources consulted:**

Diez, Ernst. "Der Hofmaler Bartholomäus Spranger", pp. 93–151. In: *Jahrbuch der kunsthistorischen Sammlungen des allerhöchsten Kaiserhauses*, vol. 28 (1909/1910).

Niederstein, Albrecht. *Das graphische Werk des Bartholomäus Spranger*. Berlin: de Gruyter, 1931.

Henning, Michael. *Die Tafelbilder Bartholomäus Sprangers (1546–1611): höfische Malerei zwischen "Manierismus" und "Barock"*. Essen: Blaue Eule, 1987.

DaCosta Kaufmann, Thomas. *The School of Prague: Painting at the Court of Rudolf II*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1988.

Larsson, Lars Olof. "Bildhauerkunst und Plastik am Hofe Kaiser Rudolfs II.," In: *Wege nach Süden, Wege nach Norden: Aufsätze zu Kunst und Architektur*. ed., Lars Olaf Larsson. Kiel: Ludwig, 1998.

Business records Hildebrand Gurlitt

Correspondence Hildebrand Gurlitt

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")

**Note:**

The traditional attribution of this work to Bartholomaeus Spranger, the Flemish artist and painter to the imperial court in Prague, is doubtful.

The work is thought instead to have been executed by an anonymous artist of the Northern Renaissance, after an engraving of 1580 by Johannes Sadeler the Elder. Sadeler's engraving was based on a Spranger painting of about 1578. That painting, now lost, is probably identical to no. 1214 in the 1621 inventory of the imperial collection of Prague, for which a preliminary drawing survives.

The label "Regal 232" (on frame verso) indicates the painting's specific location in the storage facilities of the Wiesbaden Central Collecting Point in the immediate post-war period.

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