



Giovanni Battista Tiepolo

The Almighty with Attendant Angels, and Plague Put to Flight

Preliminary study for *Santa Tecla libera Este dalla pestilenza (Saint Thecla Frees the City of Este from the Plague)*, before 1759

Pencil, ink and wash, on paper, 384 x 260 mm (395 x 271 mm)
on verso, centre right, inscribed in pencil: "55"

Provenance:

(...)

Prince Alexis Orloff

Sale: Vente Prince Orloff, Galerie Georges Petit, Paris , 30 April 1920, lot 142

(...)

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

By latest 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:

Sack, Eduard. *Giambattista und Domenico Tiepolo: Ihr Leben und ihre Werke*. Hamburg: Clarmanns Kunstverlag, 1910. [cf. p. 132, fig. 126]

Hadeln, Detlev von. *Handzeichnungen von G. B. Tiepolo*. Florence: Pantheon, 1927. [no. 100]

Catalogue des tableaux anciens [...] dessins par G.-B. Tiepolo [...] composant la Collection de Son Excellence feu le Prince Alexis Orloff. Auct. cat., Galerie Georges Petit, 29–30 April 1920. [lot 142, ill.]

Molmenti, Pompeo. *Tiepolo: La vie et l'œuvre du peintre.* Paris: Librairie Hachette et C^{ie}, 1911. [cf. ill. 89]

Knox, George. "The Orloff Album of Tiepolo Drawings." In: *The Burlington Magazine*, vol. 103, no. 699 (June 1961), pp. 269–275.

Gemin, Massimo, and Filippo Pedrocco. *Giambattista Tiepolo: I dipinti: Opera completa.* Venice: Arsenal editrice, 1993. [preliminary study for no. 486, ill.]

Primary sources:

Business records Hildebrand Gurlitt – possible references:

Sales ledger 1937–?: 17 November 1943 [no. VII]

Imports and exports ledger: 17 November 1943 [fol. J 84]

18 February 1944 [fol. 85]

18 March 1944 [fol. 85]

Correspondence Hildebrand Gurlitt – possible reference:

2 April 1957 [vol. 5, fol. 104ff.]

Cornelius Gurlitt Papers, Salzburg:

Photographs, no. 12.1_F1259 [n.d.]

Catalogues, no. 15.1_1513 [Vente Orloff, 1920]

List Raphaël Gérard, reference no. in process, 28 April 1944, [item no. 55]

List of artworks with Raphaël Gérard, reference no. in process, [c. September 1953], [item no. 55]

Seizure Inventory [Sicherstellungsverzeichnis], 2012, no. SV 41/071

Further sources consulted:

Vigni, Giorgio. *Disegni del [Giambattista] Tiepolo.* 1st ed., Padua: Le Tre Venezie, 1942; 2nd ed., Trieste: Libreria, 1972.

Morassi, Antonio, and Leopold Zahn. *G. B. Tiepolo.* Cologne: Phaidon, 1955.

Rizzi, Aldo. *L'opera grafica dei Tiepolo: Le acqueforti.* Venice: Electa Editrice, 1971.

Mostra del Tiepolo: Disegni e acqueforti. Exh. cat., Villa Manin di Passariano, Udine, 27 June–31 October 1971.

Giambattista Tiepolo (1696–1770), Domenico Tiepolo (1727–1804), Lorenzo Tiepolo (1736–1776). Exh. cat., Galerie Cailleux, Paris, 4 June–12 July 1974.

Pignatti, Terisio. *Tiepolo Disegni.* Florence: La Nuova Italia, 1974.

Knox, George. *Giambattista and Domenico Tiepolo.* Vol. 1 of *A Study and Catalogue Raisonné of the Chalk Drawings.* Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1980.

Thiem, Christel. *Ein Zeichnungsalbum der Tiepolo in Würzburg: Erkenntnisse zur Praxis und Funktion des Porträtzeichnens im Tiepolo-Studio.* Munich: Hirmer, 1996.

Tiepolo und die Zeichenkunst Venedigs im 18. Jahrhundert. Exh. cat., Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, Stuttgart; Wallraf-Richartz-Museum, Cologne, 7 December 1996–11 May 1997.

Tiepolo nero: Opera grafica e matrici incise. Exh. cat., M.a.x. museo, Chiasso, 2 February–14 October 2012.

I colori del disegno. Exh. cat., Musei Capitolini, Rome, 3 October 2014–18 June 2015.

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:

Preliminary study for Tiepolo’s *Santa Tecla libera Este dalla pestilenza*, the large altarpiece in the apse of the cathedral at Este, near Padua. Its subject is the commemoration of the plague of 1630. This study, which differs significantly from the final composition, is closer to a painted sketch now at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (accession no. 37.165.2).

This sheet was part of an album of Tiepolo drawings once owned by Prince Alexis Orloff (1867–1916), the attaché to the Imperial Russian Embassy in Paris. The contents of that album were dispersed at a sale in 1920 through Galerie Georges Petit.

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.

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 “55” on verso refers to two inventories of artworks with Gérard, one dated 28 April 1944, the other dating from about September 1953. This work is respectively referred to herein as “TIEPOLO: Dieu et les anges (sépia)” (1944) and “Tiepolo – Gott u. Engel” (1953).

The personal papers found in Cornelius Gurlitt’s Salzburg home include a collection of about 2,400 photographs of artworks. Photograph no. 12.1_F1259 is a reproduction of this work.

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