



Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot
Landscape with tree (Ville d'Avray?)

Ink on paper, 334 x 427 mm (384 x 478 mm)
on recto, lower left, signed in ink: "Corot", printed on matting: "J. B. Corot"
on verso, lower right, inscribed in blue: "X"

Provenance:

(...)

By latest 28 April 1944: Raphaël Gerard, Paris (per Gurlitt Papers) (?)

After September 1953: Hildebrand Gurlitt, Dusseldorf (per Gurlitt Papers) (?)

Thence by descent to Cornelius Gurlitt, Munich/Salzburg

From 6 May 2014: Estate of Cornelius Gurlitt

Primary sources:

Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers:

Gerard Files: BArch, N 1826/46, fol. 1 ff. List Raphaël Gerard, 28 April 1944, possibly item no. 3
Ibid., fol. 5 ff. List of artworks with Raphaël Gerard, [c. September 1953], possibly item no. 3

Seizure Inventory [Sicherstellungsverzeichnis], 2012, no. SV (Part 2)/128

Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers – possible references:

Correspondence: BArch, N 1826/182, fol. 97 f. [=vol. 10, fol. 319 f.] Hildebrand Gurlitt to Hermann Reemtsma, 13 November 1947

The extant sale ledgers list many Corot works without giving specific details

Further sources consulted (selected):

Robaut, Alfred, and Etienne Moreau-Nélation. *L'Œuvre de Corot*. 5 vols. 1st ed., Paris: Henri Floury, 1905; repr., Paris: Laget, 1965.

Bernheim de Villiers, Claude. *Corot, peintre de figures*. Paris: Bernheim-Jeune, 1930.

Bücher, Handzeichnungen, Gemälde, Graphik des 16.–20. Jahrhunderts (...). Auct. cat., Max Perl, Berlin, 18–19 May 1933.

Corot. Exh. cat., Musée de l'Orangerie, Paris, 1936.

Aquarelles, pastels, dessins, tableaux modernes (...). Auct. cat., Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 8 November 1939.

Tableaux anciens et modernes (...). Auct. cat., Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 8 May 1940.

Tableaux, objets d'ameublement anciens et modernes (...). Auct. cat., Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 7 February 1941.

Tableaux modernes (...). Auct. cat., Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 28 January 1942.

Le paysage français de Corot à nos jours. Exh. cat., Galerie Charpentier, Paris, 1942. [possibly no. 35, 38]

Tableaux modernes, dessins, aquarelles, gouaches, pastels. Auct. cat., Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 28 January 1943.

Tableaux modernes, aquarelles, dessins, gouaches, pastels. Auct. cat., Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 3 February 1944.

Combe, Jacques. *Peintures de Corot*. Paris: Editions du Chêne, 1944.

Schoeller, André, and Jean Dieterle. *Corot: Deuxième supplément à l'œuvre de Corot par A. Robaut et E. Moreau-Nélaton*. Paris: Quatre Chemins-Éditart, 1956.

Dieterle, Jean. *Corot: Troisième supplément à l'œuvre de Corot par A. Robaut et E. Moreau-Nélaton*. Paris: Quatre Chemins-Éditart, 1974.

Dieterle, Pierre, and André Pacitti. *Corot: Quatrième supplément à l'œuvre de Corot par A. Robaut et E. Moreau-Nélaton*. Paris: Laget, 1992.

Archives de Paris

Archives Nationales, Paris

Brandenburgisches Landeshauptarchiv, Potsdam

Bundesamt für zentrale Dienste und offene Vermögensfragen, Berlin

Bundesarchiv, Berlin; Koblenz

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

Herkomst Gezocht

Landesarchiv Berlin (Records of the Amt für Wiedergutmachung)

Lootedart.com

Lost Art

Musée d'Orsay, Paris (Documentation de la conservation)

Musée du Louvre, Paris (Département des Peintures)

Nationaal Archief, The Hague

National Archives, College Park, Maryland

Répertoire des Biens Spoliés

Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie

Verzeichnis national wertvoller Kunstwerke ("Reichsliste von 1938")

Witt Library

Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam (Archive)

Zentralarchiv der Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin – Preußischer Kulturbesitz

Note:

Corot's main subject was landscapes. The current work appears to be a preparatory drawing for the Corot oil painting *Ville d'Avray*, 1870, in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

This work may have been one of over 70 works with the art dealer Raphaël Gerard in Paris in 1944. It is unclear whether at the time Gerard and/or Gurlitt owned or co-owned these works, whether they had been placed on commission, or indeed simply deposited with Gerard. It is conspicuous that an inventory of works with Gerard was drawn up in the very late stages of the war; one possible hypothesis is that Gurlitt placed for safekeeping with Gerard 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 Gerard until 1957 (at Gurlitt's cost). There are two inventories of artworks with Gerard, one dated 28 April 1944, the other dating from about September 1953. This work may be identical to the work listed herein at no. 3, and respectively referred to as "Corot, Ville d'Avray (dessin)" (1944) and "Corot, Ville d'Avray, Zchg" (1953). The question cannot be definitively answered to date, since the Schwabing Art Trove contains a second, very similar Corot landscape drawing of same subject (Lost Art ID: 478419).

The original report on the provenance of this work, as submitted to the Task Force Schwabing Art Trove, was made accessible online at www.taskforce-kunstfund.de as of 14 January 2016. That report was updated by the Gurlitt Provenance Research Project on 5 October 2017.

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