



Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot

Paysage avec arbre au premier plan (Landscape with tree) (Ville d'Avray?)

Pencil on paper, 305 x 460 mm (framed, 567 x 724 x 43 mm)

on recto, printed in dark grey on mat: "Corot"

on verso, on cardboard backing, upper left, inscribed in black: "2237.4" [partly concealed by tape];
centre right, in white: "A"; at centre, in black: "3."

on frame, lower centre, inscribed in white: "3"; lower left, in pencil: "425 Gerard[?] 320 D"
[obliterated]

Provenance:

(...)

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

Probably by December 1947: Hildebrand Gurlitt, Aschbach (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

Photographs: BArch, N 1826 Bild-0754 [=5.1_F576] [n.d.]

Seizure Inventory [Sicherstellungsverzeichnis], 2012, no. SV (Part 2)/133

Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers – possible reference:

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

BArch, N 1826/177, fol. 275 f. [=vol. 6, fol. 216 f.] Gitta Gurlitt to
Hildebrand Gurlitt, 3 January 1948

Ibid., fol. 277 [=vol. 6, fol. 218]. List Gitta Gurlitt, 9 December 1947

Further sources consulted (selected):

- Robaut, Alfred, and Etienne Moreau-Nélaton. *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.
- Le paysage français de Corot à nos jours*. Exh. cat., Galerie Charpentier, Paris, 1942. [possibly no. 35 or 38]
- Catalogue des tableaux, aquarelles, dessins, pastels, gravures, sculptures (...)*. Auct. Cat., Galerie Charpentier, Paris, 20 June 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.
- Dresel, Ines. *Camille Corot: Landschaftszeichnungen*. Doctoral diss., Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, Freiburg, 1993.

Archives de Paris

Archives du Louvre, 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

Institut national d'histoire de l'art (French sale catalogues)

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 Arts graphiques; Département des Peintures)

Nationaal Archief, The Hague

National Archives, College Park, Maryland

Répertoire des Biens Spoliés

Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie, The Hague

Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam (Archive)

Verzeichnis national wertvoller Kunstwerke ("Reichsliste von 1938")

Witt Library, London

Zentralarchiv der Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin – Preußischer Kulturbesitz

Note:

Corot's main subject was landscapes.

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: 478417).

Among the personal papers found in Cornelius Gurlitt's Salzburg home is a collection of about 2400 photographs of artworks. Photograph no. 5.1_F576, is a reproduction of this work.

A reference to a Corot drawing titled *Weite Landschaft m. Felsen links* (Wide Landscape with a Rock on the Left) can be found in the correspondence of Hildebrand Gurlitt. It was sent to a restorer in December 1947.

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 13 July 2018.

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