



Georges Michel

Paysage avec voyageur (Landscape with traveller)

Oil on cardboard, 53.3 x 59.2 cm

on recto, frame, lower centre: "Georges Michel 1763–1843"

on verso, frame, upper left, inscribed in blue: "211"; upper centre, handwritten label: "1934"; in pencil: "Fot."; upper right, label: "Regal 237"; lower right corner, in red: "791"; lower left, in white: "2434"

on backing, at right, inscribed in blue: "Wie 1934/4"; at centre, handwritten French text on Georges Michel by Louis Vauxcelles; lower centre, round label: "H. GERFAUD EMBALLAGE & TRANSPORT D'OBJETS D'ART 14 Rue de la [?] Paris – Provence 83-96"

Provenance:

(...)

Probable sale: Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 23 December 1942, lot 128

André Schoeller, Paris, acquired at the above sale

(Probably thereafter acquired by Hildebrand Gurlitt from André Schoeller)

By latest 1945: Hildebrand Gurlitt, Aschbach

1945–1950 Central Collecting Point Wiesbaden, no. WIE 1934/4

From 15 December 1950: Hildebrand Gurlitt, Dusseldorf

Thence by descent to Cornelius Gurlitt, Munich/Salzburg

From 6 May 2014: Estate of Cornelius Gurlitt

Bibliographical reference:

Tableaux modernes. Auct. cat., Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 23 December 1942. [possibly lot 128, as *La ferme près du bouquet d'arbres*]

Primary sources:

Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers:

Photographs: BArch, N 1826 Bild-0945 [=9.1_F932], [1 February 1943]

Seizure Inventory [Sicherstellungsverzeichnis], 2012, no. SV Part 1/012 Business records Hildebrand Gurlitt – possible references:

Current (checking) account: 25 February 1942 [fol. W. 34]
17 March 1942[?] [fol. J. 54]

Imports and exports ledger: 22 September 1941 [no. 1489]
25 February 1942 [no. 1489]

Sales ledger 1937–41: 17 November 1942 [no. 140]
15 February 1943 [no. 170]
3 February 1943 [no. 171]
5 April 1943 [no. 170]
22 September 1941 [no. 114]
25 February 1942 [no. 151]

Sales ledger 1937–?: 1941 [no. 1489]
25 February 1942 [no. 1489]
25 November 1942 [no. 1666–1672]
1942 [no. 1666–1672]
5 April 1943 [no. 1666–1672]
3 February 1943 [no. 1758–1761]
15 February 1943 [no. 1758–1761]
22 September 1941 [no. 1489]

Archives Nationales, Paris:

Archives Musées Nationaux, 4AA1, box 24, Hildebrand Gurlitt. Export license, 27 December 1943
Ibid., box 25, Theo Hermsen export licenses

National Archives, College Park, Maryland:

M1946, Munich Central Collecting Point, Interrogations: Statements Of Art Dealers
www.fold3.com/image/270046019 (11 July 2018)

M1947, Wiesbaden Central Collecting Point, Property Card no. WIE 1934/4
www.fold3.com/image/231951640/ (6 September 2015)

Further sources consulted:

Larguier, Léo. *Georges Michel (1763–1843)*. Paris: André Delpeuch, 1927.

Rétrospective Georges Michel 1763–1843. Exh. cat., Galerie Charpentier, Paris, 29 March–15 April 1927.

Alazard, Jean. *Catalogue des peintures et sculptures exposées dans les galeries du Musée National des Beaux-Arts d'Alger*. Paris: Henri Laurens, 1936.

Catalogue d'une collection de tableaux et de miniatures du XVIe au XXe siècle (...). Auct. cat., Galerie Fievez, Brussels, 6 December 1937.

Vauxcelles, Louis. "Georges Michel," in: *Le monde illustré*, 3 December 1938.

Exposition rétrospective d'œuvres de Georges Michel. Exh. cat., Galerie Guy Stein, Paris, 5 December 1938–7 January 1939.

Exposition Rétrospective de Georges Michel à l'occasion du centenaire de sa mort 1763–1843. Exh. Cat., Galerie Lefranc & Engrand, Paris, 8–25 May 1943.

Bouret, Jean. *L'École de Barbizon et le paysage français au XIXième siècle*. Paris: La Bibliothèque des Arts, 1972.

Müllerschön, Bernd, and Thomas Maier. *Die Maler der Schule von Barbizon: Wegbereiter des Impressionismus*. Stuttgart: Ed. Thombe, 2002. Archives de Paris

Bundesarchiv, Koblenz

Centre Pompidou, Bibliothèque Kandinsky, Paris
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
Institut national d'histoire de l'art, Paris
Lootedart.com
Lost Art
Ministère des Affaires étrangères, Archives diplomatiques, Paris
Politisches Archiv des Auswärtigen Amtes, Berlin
Répertoire des Biens Spoliés
Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie, The Hague
Verzeichnis national wertvoller Kunstwerke ("Reichsliste von 1938")
Witt Library, London
Zentralarchiv für deutsche und internationale Kunstmarktforschung, Cologne

Note:

The extant sale ledgers of Hildebrand Gurlitt list many Georges Michel works. Owing to the lack of specific details given therein, it has not to date been possible to establish definitively when and where this work was acquired.

The possible provenance that was tentatively assigned to the artwork in the course of its seizure, and later published on Lostart.de, requires further research.

The personal papers found in Cornelius Gurlitt's Salzburg home include a collection of about 2,400 photographs of artworks. Photograph no. 9.1_F932 is a reproduction of this work; inscribed on verso, a statement of authenticity by the art expert André Schoeller of Paris, 13, Rue de Téhéran, dated 1 February 1943.

It is very likely that Gurlitt acquired this work through André Schoeller. Four Georges Michel landscapes are listed in an export license issued to Theo Hermsen on Hildebrand Gurlitt's behalf in 1942/1943.

The label "Regal 237" (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.

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 11 July 2018.

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