



Unknown

Portrait of a blond gentleman with letter (Philipp Heidemann?), c. 1810

Oil on canvas, 70.8 x 54 cm

canvas relined and mounted on new stretcher; paper tape glued on frame to cover edges of canvas on recto, inscription on letter: "Herrn" / "Herrn Philipp Heidemann" / "in" / "Nürnberg"; lower left corner of the letter: „T.“

on verso, at centre, inscribed on stretcher in white chalk: "2217"

Provenance:

(...)

By latest July 1944: Hildebrand Gurlitt, Dresden (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:

Correspondence: BArch, N 1826/179, fol. 187 [=vol. 12, fol. 141] Heinrich Kohlhausen, Director of Germanisches Nationalmuseum, to Hildebrand Gurlitt, 19 October 1944

Seizure Inventory [Sicherstellungsverzeichnis], 2012, no. SV (Part 2)/094

Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers – possible references:

Sales ledger 1937–41: 1 April 1941 [no. 110]

6 June 1943 [no. 160]
Sales ledger 1937–?: 1 April 1941 [no. 1422]
6 June 1943 [no. 1422]

Germanisches Nationalmuseum, Nuremberg, Deutsches Kunstarchiv:
Estate Heinrich Kohlhaussen, photographs, July 1944
Museum registry, no. 1958, 24 and 27 July 1944

National Archives, College Park, Maryland – possible reference:
M1946, Munich Central Collecting Point, Interrogations: Statements Of Art Dealers, 10 June 1945,
www.fold3.com/image/270046020 (2 September 2015)

Further sources consulted:

Gemälde neuerer Meister, Kunstgewerbe, Skulpturen, alte Möbel, Orientteppiche, Gemälde alter Meister (...). Auct. cat., Hugo Helbing, Munich, 27–29 May 1935. [cf. lot 642]
Grieb, Manfred H., ed. *Nürnberger Künstlerlexikon - bildende Künstler, Kunsthandwerker, Gelehrte, Sammler, Kulturschaffende und Mäzene vom 12. bis zur Mitte des 20. Jahrhunderts*. Munich: Saur, 2007.
Ring, Christian. *Gustav Pauli und die Hamburger Kunsthalle*. Berlin, Munich: Deutscher Kunstverlag, 2010.

Kunsthaus Zürich (Archive and Library):
Annotated auction catalogue, Hugo Helbing, 27-29 May 1935

Bundesarchiv, 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"
Galerie Heinemann Online
Germanisches Nationalmuseum, Nuremberg, Deutsches Kunstarchiv
Getty Provenance Index, German Sales Catalogs
Heidelberger Digitale Bibliothek (Auktionskataloge; Heidelberger Historische Bestände)
Lootedart.com
Lost Art
National Archives, College Park, Maryland
Répertoire des Biens Spoliés
Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie, The Hague
Staatsarchiv Nürnberg
Stadtarchiv Nürnberg
Verzeichnis national wertvoller Kunstwerke ("Reichsliste von 1938")
Witt Library, London
Zentralarchiv der Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin – Preußischer Kulturbesitz

Note:

The gentleman portrayed holds a letter in his hand, on which is written: "Herrn Philipp Heidemann in Nürnberg" and in the lower left corner "T".

In a sworn statement submitted to the Central Collecting Point Wiesbaden in 1945, Hildebrand Gurlitt claimed that he had acquired this work from the Kunsthandlung Pauli in 1934 for 150 RM. Shortly thereafter, he retracted on this statement. To this date, his erstwhile affidavit could not be verified. The art dealership of Alfred Pauli (1896-1938) was situated first in Amsterdam and later in Hamburg. Records pertaining to Pauli's business transactions could not be located.

Among the personal papers found in Cornelius Gurlitt's Salzburg home is a letter from the former director of the Germanisches Nationalmuseum in Nuremberg, Heinrich Kohlhausen from 19 October 1944 referring to a "Nürnberger Porträt". In Kohlhausen's estate papers, a photographic reproduction of the present portrait was found with reference to Hildebrand Gurlitt, dating to July 1944. The registry of the Nationalmuseum in Nuremberg further leads to believe that the painting was supposed to be acquired by the museum from Gurlitt in summer 1944 but apparently never arrived.

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 December 2018.

Disclaimer

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