



Jan van Kessel the Elder (?)

Insecten en vlinders (Insects and Butterflies)

Oil on wood, 13.7 x 18.5 cm

on verso, on frame, inscribed in blue pen: “36”; on wood panel, upper right, in pen: “Jan van Kessel 1626–1679”; at centre, in white chalk: “42” (or “92” ?)

Provenance:

(...)

By latest 2012: Cornelius Gurlitt, Munich/Salzburg

From 6 May 2014: Estate of Cornelius Gurlitt

Bibliographical references:

De Helsche en de Fluweelen Brueghel: en hun invloed op de kunst in de Nederlanden. Exh. cat., Kunsthandel P. de Boer, Amsterdam, 10 February–26 March 1934. [possibly no. 309 ?]

Primary sources:

Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers – possible references:

Catalogues: 13.4_1336 [Kunsthandel P. de Boer, 1934]

Miscellaneous: BArch, N 1826/161, Kunstkabinett Gurlitt guest book. [fol. 42, Valerie Alport, Hamburg, 22 November 1936]

National Archives, Washington, D. C.:

Ardelia Hall Collection, Munich Administrative Records, Restitution Claims Records, Interrogations: Statements of Art Dealers.

www.fold3.com/image/270046019

www.fold3.com/image/270046020/ (20 October 2017)

Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie, The Hague:

Box 384, Jan van Kessel [possible match ?]

Further sources consulted:

Lugt, Frits. *Les Marques de Collections de Dessins & d'Estampes*. 1st ed., Amsterdam: Vereenigde Drukkerijen, 1921; supplement, The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff, 1956.

Hofstede de Groot, Cornelis. *Beschreibendes und kritisches Verzeichnis der Werke der hervorragendsten holländischen Maler des XVII. Jahrhunderts*. 10 vols. Esslingen: Neff, 1923.

Walther, Bernd. *Die niederländischen Maler des 17. Jahrhunderts*. 4 vols. Munich: Bruckmann, 1962.

Bruegel: Une dynastie de peintres. Exh. cat., Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, 18 September 1980–18 November 1980.

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Ertz, Klaus, and Christa Nitze-Ertz. *Jan van Kessel der Ältere: Jan van Kessel der Jüngere: Jan van Kessel der Andere: kritische Kataloge der Gemälde: Flämische Maler im Umkreis der grossen Meister*. Lingen: Luca, 2012.

Baadj, Nadja. "A World of Materials in a Cabinet without Drawers: Reframing Jan van Kessels's The four Parts of the World," pp. 202–237. In: *Meaning in Materials: Netherlandish Art, 1400–1800*, ed. Ann-Sophie Lehmann, Frits Scholten and Perry Chapman, Vol. 62 of *Netherlands Yearbook for History of Art*. Leiden: Brill, 2012.

Baadj, Nadia. *Jan van Kessel I (1626–1679): Crafting a Natural History of Art in Early Modern Antwerp*. London: Harvey Miller, 2016.

Bildarchiv Foto Marburg (Bildindex)

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"

Database "Sonderauftrag Linz"

Gemeentearchief Amsterdam (Jacques Goudstikker Papers)

Getty Provenance Index, German Sales Catalogs

Grisebach, Berlin

Heidelberger Digitale Bibliothek (Auktionskataloge; Heidelberger Historische Bestände)

Herkomst Gezocht

Kunsthandel P. de Boer, Amsterdam (Archive)

Lootedart.com (Vlug Report)

Lost Art

Ministère des Affaires étrangères, Archives diplomatiques, Paris

Musée du Louvre, Paris (Documentation générale)

National Archives, College Park, Maryland

Reichsuniversität Groningen

Répertoire des Biens Spoliés

Répertoire d'œuvres d'art dont la Belgique a été spoliée durant la guerre 1939–1945
Universität Hamburg, Archiv Hamburger Kunst (Collection Valerie Alport)
University College Oxford (Erich Alport Papers)
Verzeichnis national wertvoller Kunstwerke (“Reichsliste von 1938”)
Witt Library, London

Note:

This painting is a work by Jan van Kessel the Elder or his workshop. It is not included in the catalogues raisonnés by Alice Inghram Davies and Klaus Ertz. There are a great number of very similar variants of insect still lifes by the artist.

A work titled *Schetsje met meekrapvlinder en pijlstaartvlinder* (Study of two types of hawk-moth) is included at no. 309 in an exhibition catalogue of Kunsthandel P. de Boer in 1934. Research showed that work to have originated with Jacques Goudstikker; per the gallery records, that work was subsequently sold to a buyer named Alport.

An annotated copy of the 1934 exhibition catalogue was found among the Cornelius Gurlitt Papers. It has not been possible to determine, however, whether the work shown in Amsterdam in 1934 is in fact identical to the work found in the Schwabing Art Trove.

In the course of interrogations by U.S. army personnel in 1945, Gurlitt claimed to have acquired one work described as: “Kessel, Schmetterlinge” (Kessel, Butterflies) from the Kunsthandlung Rheins in Berlin in 1942. To date, this statement could not be verified.

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 20 October 2017.

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