



Willem van Aelst (attributed to)
Still life with grapes, pomegranates and goblet

Oil on canvas, 46.6 x 37.5 cm

on recto, signed [illegible] on the ledge

on verso, canvas relined using a flour sack on which is printed: “[CA]NADIAN MILL & ELEV. EL RENO, OKLA. U.S.A. MILLED MAY 1945”; on stretcher, centre left, red wax seal: “R 9 [?]”; lower right, inscribed in blue crayon: “N 2”

Provenance:

(...)

Possible sale: Vente anonyme, Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 6 March 1942, lot 1

(...)

By latest 2012: Cornelius Gurlitt, Munich/Salzburg

From 6 May 2014: Estate of Cornelius Gurlitt

Bibliographical reference:

Tableaux anciens (...). Auct. cat., Paris, Hôtel Drouot, 6 March 1942. [possibly lot 1]

Primary sources:

Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers:

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Further sources consulted:

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Gemälde alter und neuerer Meister, Aquarelle, Graphik, Handzeichnungen, Miniaturen (...). Dorotheum, Vienna, 4–6 July 1940. [possibly no. 460?]

Grant, Maurice Harold. *Jan van Huysum 1682–1749: including a Catalogue Raisonné of the Artist's Fruit and Flower Paintings*. Leigh-on-Sea: Lewis, 1954.

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Still-Life Paintings from the Netherlands 1550–1720. Exh. cat., Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, 19 June–19 September 1999; The Cleveland Museum of Art, 31 October 1999–9 January 2000.

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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”

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Heidelberger Digitale Bibliothek (Auktionskataloge; Heidelberger Historische Bestände)

Herkomst Gezocht

Lootedart.com

Lost Art

Musée du Louvre, Paris (Documentation générale)

Répertoire d'œuvres d'art dont la Belgique a été spoliée durant la guerre 1939–1945

Répertoire des Biens Spoliés

Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie, The Hague

Verzeichnis national wertvoller Kunstwerke (“Reichsliste von 1938”)

Witt Library, London

Note:

The traditional attribution to Jan van Huysum could not be substantiated. The painting is not included in the catalogue raisonné by Maurice Harold Grant.

The painting was instead found to bear stylistic similarities to works by Willem van Aelst.

In March 1942, this work was possibly sold at an anonymous sale at Hôtel Drouot for 26.000 Francs. Since the auction protocol does not exist, neither buyer nor seller could be established.

The painting was relined using a heavy canvas flour sack made by the Canadian Mill & Elevator Company in El Reno, Oklahoma. The date printed on the sack, May 1945, suggests that this was possibly an emergency measure 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 18 October 2019.

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