

Anvers 27 Juin 1893



3591

Monsieur V. Stienen
Secrétaire du Musée Royal de
Peinture Bruxelles

Un de mes amis possédant
un magnifique tableau, représentant
la descente de Croix, attribué à
Van Dyck, je viens vous prier de
me dire si vous voudriez me
recevoir un de ces jours, à l'effet
de vous montrer la photographie
de ce tableau, qui est probablement
à vendre et qui serait une bonne
acquisition pour votre Musée.

Dans le cas où vous ne désireriez
pas l'acheter, vous pourriez peut-
être me mettre sur la voie pour
trouver un acquereur.

Agrez, Monsieur, mes salutations
distinguées

Lucie Vandamme

M^r Léon Vander Meersch

22 rue d'Anvers

Anvers

The painting represents the "Descent from the Cross" by
Vandyck. It was painted for the altar-piece of St.
Philip & Neri at Seville from whence it was removed
by Marshal Soult when he loaded many wagons with
pictures but the Spaniards recovered some, amongst
which was this one. It has been in private hands
ever since, the present owner (Colonel Henry
de Lagen) having had it since 1859.
Its measure is 7 feet by 5 feet.

27 Cranen St.
London W.C.

May 6th 1874.

} from Robert Digby

Marshal Soult plundered Seville of all valuable pictures
loaded 26 galleons (wagons) & divided the expedition into 2 trains
of 13 wagons each; the first went to France but the second
was retaken by the Spaniards, they remaining masters of the
road from Seville to Madrid explains the pictures taken by
Soult returning to the Spaniards. The Spanish authorities were
at a loss how to return each picture to its owner; they were
all placed in the alcazar to be classified & returned to
the owners after classification. Some of the paintings
disappeared in the hands of the persons appointed for
classifying them, amongst which was the one I possess.
I do not know how many hands it has passed
through till it became my property in 1859.
The painting is no doubt in the register in the register
of Saint Philip & Neri of Seville & the price paid the artist.
Jong in his Artistical Travels in Spain published
at the end of last Century mentions it as a valuable

picture. I do not know of any general register of pictures of Vandyck & if such register I am inclined to believe my painting will be mentioned, as the artist (Vandyck) painted it expressly for the church of St. Philip & Neri of Seville belonging to the Fathers of the oratory.

The subject of the descent of the Cross was treated by Vandyck in many instances. A good masterpiece of his is the "Descent from the Cross" a good engraving of which is on sale at Bedford St. Covent Garden at an artists shop.

The identity of being an original is in the picture itself - a comparison with the portrait of Charles 1st at Hampton Court will help to identify it, for ⁱⁿ both pictures are seen the same touch of pencil.

Travels thro. Portugal & Spain in 1772 & 1773.
by Richard Twiss Esq. F.R.S. page. 309:—

"In the Church of San Felipe Neri, I saw a picture by Van dyke: the figures are as large as life, and whole lengths."—

Henry J. Basiter

20 Golden Bag Lane

— Norwich —

Brux. 28 Juin 1893

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M^r. Lion Vander Meersch
22. rue d'Etterberg
à Anvers

Je m'empresse de vous faire connaître
en réponse à votre lettre du 27 de ce mois,
par laquelle vous m'entreteniez d'un
tableau attribué à Vanduyck (descende de
cevia) que je me procurerai avec
M^{me} madame de Puttem, rue
du clerc n° 1, demain Jeudi, d'une
à trois heures.

Le clerc s'est de venir d'ici
que la C^{ie} Dir. du clercs se réunira
Mardi & Jeudi. - Vous pourriez
donner dans le cas où vous seriez en-
-pêché de venir à Bruxelles, me
faire parvenir la photographie du dit
tableau afin qu'elle soit examinée
en temps utile à st. st. les clercs
de la C^{ie} Dir.
Agr.

L. Bécicq
Bk



To enquire whether the picture
is original or not. — 7 puds — 5 p.