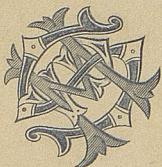


Anvers 27 Juin 1893



3591

Monsieur A. Stienon  
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 vous vous prie de  
me dire si vous voudrez 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 acquéreur.

Agreez, monsieur, mes salutations  
distinguees

Léon Vandermeersch

M<sup>r</sup> Léon Vandermeersch  
22. rue d'Arenberg  
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 Lazer) having had it since 1859.

Its measure is 7 feet by 5 feet.

27 Craven St.  
London W.C.

May 6<sup>th</sup> 1874.

{ from Robert Digby

Marshal Soult plundered Seville of all valuable pictures, loaded 26 golejas (wagons) & divided the expedition into 2 teams 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 alcázar 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 registers of Saint Philip e Teri of Seville the price being the artist. Long 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 Van dyck & if such register, I am inclined to believe my painting will be mentioned, as the artist (Van dyck) painted it expressly for the church of St. Philip everi of Seville belonging to the Fathers of the oratory.

The subject of the descent of the Cross was treated by Van dyck in many instances. A grand masterpiece of his is the "Descent from the Cross" a good engraving of which is on sale at Bedford St.

Concert Ground at an artist's 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 pieta by Van dyke: the figures are as large as life, and whole lengths." —

// Henry J. Carter

20 Golden Day Lane

Norwich

//

Bрю . 28 Juin 1863

3591

M<sup>me</sup> Léon Vander Meesch  
22- rue d'Etendart  
à Anvers

J' m'imprègne pour faire comme  
en réponse à votre lettre du 27 de ce mois  
pour laquelle vous m'entrez dans l'ordre d'envoyer  
sublime attribué à Van Dyck (descendance de  
crois) que je me trouverai au  
Musée académie des Beaux-arts  
au chemin N° 1, Demain Jeudi, à une  
à trois heures.

J. crois avoir de vous dire alors  
que la C<sup>te</sup> dir. des Musées se démissionne  
Mardi 4 Juillet. - Vous pourrez  
donc dans le cas où vous seriez en  
- pêché de venir à Bruxelles, me  
faire parvenir la photographie du tableau  
afin que l'abbé Van Crommelynck  
en temps utile à ell. et. les clembes  
de la C<sup>te</sup> dir.

Ogr.

G. Bertrand  
N.H.



Go enquire whether the pedigree  
is original or not. — If not sum 5/-