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Horquibart Musson

Kent. Aug.

photographie
remise à la Bi-
bliothèque

M. Heymans

18.5.1929

WELL HOUSE,
MEOPHAM,
KENT.

10th May / 29
Martin van Cleve
a friend

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much indeed for your kind letter & for your highly esteemed opinion which, I notice, corresponds with that of Dr. Friedlander.

Your description of Martin Van Cleve's style is absolutely true of my picture.

I am sorry that my letter gave a wrong impression. The tonality is rich, not delicate, & the reds are bright & strong.

When I said that the picture possessed 'Subtlety', I referred to the modelling of the heads, some of which are exceedingly subtle. In this respect & in the quality of handling my picture seems to me far superior to anything which I have seen from the hands of Pieter Breughel the younger.

WILLIAM H. H. H.
MORRIS
KEND

I am a painter of very small means,
& I am anxious to sell this picture,
and if, in your busy life, you
should meet collectors of such
works, I should be more than
grateful if you would kindly mention
the picture to them.
Mr. Van Cleve is a rare master, I know,
and almost unknown in England.

Again may I offer you my very
warmest thanks for your kind interest
& for your very valuable opinion

I remain dear Sir

Your very truly

Murray Upphart

6 mai 1929.

Dear Sir,

Permettez-moi de vous écrire en français, je ne puis dicter ma correspondance qu'en cette langue. Puis, je constate par votre lettre que vous lisez bien le français.

La photographie que vous me faites parvenir de votre tableau sur panneau, me paraît être la reproduction d'une oeuvre de Martin van Cleve, un des successeurs de Breughel. Les attitudes, les physionomies et les groupements m'en donnent une certitude à peu près complète. Vous pouvez vous même retrouver la caractéristique de la peinture de van Cleve : un rouge très vibrant, des blancs très nets, spécialement dans les coiffures des femmes. Vous me dites que l'oeuvre est d'une tonalité très délicate. J'en douterais. Les oppositions de couleurs doivent être très vives.

J'ai vu, il y a peu de temps, une oeuvre de Martin van Cleve qui portait les mêmes caractéristiques, ^{qui sont les mêmes} dans le commerce à Bruxelles.

Veuillez agréer, Dear Sir, l'expression de mes sentiments distingués.

Le Conservateur en chef,

à Monsieur Murray Urquhart

Well House

Meopham

Kent. (England)

WELL HOUSE,

MEOPHAM,

KENT.

England

2nd May. /1929

Dear Sir,

I venture to send you the photograph of a picture which I feel I must dispose of. I also enclose a copy of a letter which Dr. Friedlander has written in regard to it.

The picture is on panel - measures $18\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height X 26 inches in length, is rich in colour and fine in quality, and I think the photograph gives some idea of the subtle rendering of the character.

If one can judge by photographs this example seems to be finer than the pictures by Martin Van Cleve in Vienna.

Of course one bows to so learned an authority as Dr. Friedlander, but the workmanship of this picture does seem to place Van Cleve in a very high category.

I am offering the picture at £800

which seems to me a very reasonable sum
for so fine & rare a work, and I do
not intend to sell it for less.

I thought it might possibly interest
you.

I apologise for writing in English.
I am a good French scholar, but can
express myself so much better & more
quickly in my own language.

Believe me to be

Yours very truly

Murray Ureghart.

The Director

Musée Royal des Beaux-Arts
Brussels.

I may say that I am an artist by profession
and a collector in a small way.

Copy.

Kupferstichkabinett Der Staatlichen Museen

BERLIN, C2 den 17/11/28.

Dear Sir,

I have received your kind letter and the photo of your picture.

This fine Flemish work, executed about 1560 is, as far as I can see, an unusually good work of Martin Van Cleve's, who was a follower of Pieter Breugel.

There are some pictures of this rare master at Vienna, in the State Gallery, very similar in composition and execution to your picture.

I am, dear Sir, with kind regards,

Truly yours,

(Signed) M. I. FRIEDLANDER.