

MINISTÈRE
DE
L'INTÉRIEUR.

Dossier concernant un tableau
de Lucas Cranach offert en
vente par M^r H. Farrer, à
Londres

N^o 366.

366

366 M^r Farrer - Tableau de Cranach.

NUMÉRO
D'ORDRE.

DATE
DE LA PIÈCE.

ANALYSE.

Musée royal
de
Peinture
et de
Sculpture.

N^o 366

Paris, le 11 Janvier 1852.

M^r. Farrer
à Londres.

J'ai l'honneur de vous
informer que la Commission
administrative du Musée royal
a examiné avec intérêt le tableau
de Lucas Cranach, représentant
un épisode de la vie de Charle-
-quint, que vous avez bien
voulu lui soumettre avec
votre lettre du 5 Décembre, et
mais elle regrette que la
situation financière de
Musée royal de Peinture
ne lui permette pas de songer
en ce moment à l'acquisition
d'ouvrages destinés à cet
Etablissement; les engagements
qu'elle a contractés l'année
dernière lui font un devoir

De suspendre toute négociation
jusqu'à ce que de nouvelles
ressources soient mises
à sa disposition.

Recevez nous vous prions
en conséquence, et M^{rs} de
vouloir bien nous faire
connaître vos intentions
sur l'objet de la destination
à donner au tableau dont
il s'agit et d'acquiescer
de nos Comités Fins distingués

De la Cour et de

Le Président.

J. J. Savary

566

Berghem 37500.-
 Rembrandt
 Teniers
 2 Gerard Dow
 2 Micris.
 Vand Velde (W).
 Van Der Werff. -

Tablins effects in value per Mr
 Farrer - in London -

Bridgewater Lodge

Maidenhead
 (Pres) Near Windoor

Bertha
 England

Londres. 14 Wardour St.
5th Dec^r 1851.

à Mons^r

Mons^r Marez,

peintre d'Histoire,

Président de la Commission,

directrice du Musée Royal, de peinture,

sculpture & Bruxelles.



Lors de mon dernier voyage en Belgique j'ai parlé à Mons^r Etienne Le Roy du tableau de Lucas Cranach que je possède et il m'a fortement engagé de le soumettre à l'examen de la Commission du Musée, attendu que le dit tableau, indépendamment de sa rareté et de son mérite eminent, représente une episode de la vie de Charles quint, qui s'y trouve représenté ainsi que l'Electeur de Saxe Juan Frederic le Magnanime et d'autres personnages historiques. Cette magnifique peinture a dans le temps fait partie de la Galerie de Joseph Buonaparte (le Comte de Surveillier) de qui j'ai l'acheté. Le pendant de ce tableau se trouve encore actuellement à Madrid d'où le ~~saime~~ mien est aussi devenu. J'ai donc l'honneur Monsieur de vous informer que j'ai pris la liberté de vous adresser cet œuvre au Musée Royal conformément au desir exprimé par M^r Etienne Le Roy. Je vous envoie au même temps quelques dessins pris

apres le pendant de cet tableau qui se
reste a Madrid.

J'ai l'honneur Monsieur
de me soucrire votre
devoté serviteur
Henry Farrer.

P. S. le prix de cet Tableau est 250 livres. St^r.

"The following description is copied from one of the London
papers"

Remarkable Historical Picture
by Lucas Cranach.

We have been favoured, by Mr Henry Farrer, of Woadon
Street, the well-known and highly intelligent picture dealer,
with the sight of a most interesting and important work by this
early and singular painter of the German school, which is not
less interesting as a production of the art of the *Moyen Age*, than
for the historical importance of the subject.

It represents a grand entertainment or battue, given by
John Frederick the Elector of Saxony, the friend of Luther, to
Charles V., Emperor of Germany, after the celebrated meeting of
the Diet of Spier, in 1544, at which the Emperor and all the
Seven Electors were present, and where Charles formed the treaty
that bound the Electors to assist him in his second expedition
against Francis I., after the Diet, the Elector of Saxony invited
them to his summer palace on the banks of the Elbe, and it is
in this Imperial visit that the painter so vividly presents to our
view.

Nearly in front we see Frederick the Elector himself, armed
with his cross bow, — his Imperial guest, the Emperor Charles V;

his brother, Ferdinand King of the Romans, and other Princes
of Germany, engaged in the chase of an immense quantity of
deer, who, being surrounded by the retainers of the Elector, are
driven into a lake, on their escape from which they are shot at
by the hunters. The lake is encircled by a thickly timbered
forest. Beneath the branches are numerous other figures,
including the Electress of Saxony, and the ladies of her court,
who, from their coverts, ply their arrows at the deer. In a boat
on the lake are seen both of the branches, and on the side of
the boat is the date, 1545, and the Dragon, the monogram of
Cranach. The painter might well introduce his portrait in
this subject, for the historian particularly mentions that when
the Elector went to meet the Emperor, the only person in the
carriage with him was Lucas Cranach, or as Frederick was wont
to call him, his, "faithful friend." On a first sight of this
interesting picture, we exclaimed, How little in Germany
have manners and customs changed! for just of such a nature
were the entertainments given by the Duke of Saxe-Coburg,
when he entertained his royal sister-in-law Queen Victoria,
with his grand star-hunts when hundreds of deer met their
deaths, so was it also in the days of Charles V.

The painter, with all fidelity has beautifully finished
the deer, — they are full of character, nor less minutely, has
the painter elaborated the foliage or the flowers that grow
amidst the underwood of the forest — each so made out
that the botanist might name every plant that the painter
figures. Equally interesting to the antiquary are the rich
and singular dresses, both of the men and women, and
the minute details delineation of the weapons and ornaments,
the reality of the representation, indeed, brings back most
vividly the scene it is intended to commemorate, relating
as it does, to a time all important to a family now so likely
to be the fathers of a race of kings. It is by far the most im-
portant work of the painter, having no doubt been painted
either for the Elector of Saxony or for the Emperor Charles V.