

A Just and Fair Solution regarding the Drawing “Baroque Portal in Toledo” by Camille Corot

After having undertaken comprehensive historical research regarding the drawing *Baroque Portal in Toledo* by Camille Corot from the collection of Professor Curt Glaser, a German private collector and the heirs of Professor Curt Glaser have reached a just and fair solution in a consensual process and exchange.

Professor Glaser, a medical doctor, famous art historian, art critic, author of many important texts and books on art and art history, as well as a notable art collector, worked for Berlin museums since 1909. He had achieved great distinction while working for the *Kupferstichkabinett* [Gallery of Prints] before he became director of the State Art Library in Berlin in 1924.

With the Nazis' rise to power, he was persecuted because of his Jewish origin. Prior to his forced retirement in September 1933, the Nazis suspended Glaser as an unwanted and persecuted Jewish museum director from his position as director of the State Art Library already before the enactment of the 'Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service' [Nazi law forbidding Jews from holding German civil servant positions].

As a result of the loss of his position and due to Nazi persecution, Professor Glaser had no professional or personal future in Nazi-Germany. Already in June 1933, he emigrated, together with his second wife, to the United States via stopovers in France, Switzerland, Italy and Cuba. He died in Lake Placid, New York in 1943.

In order to finance the emigration, he had no other choice than to sell a large part of his art collection, his apartment furniture, as well as his art library at the Berlin auction houses *Internationales Kunst- und Auktionshaus* and *Max Perl*.

At the auction *Books, Hand Drawings, Paintings/Graphic of the 16th to 20th Century* at the Berlin auction house *Max Perl* the Bremen art dealer and art collector Arnold Blome (1894-1972) acquired four pencil drawings, which were offered for sale in lot 840. One of the pencil drawings was the *Baroque Portal in Toledo*.

This drawing, together with other artworks from the collection Arnold Blome, was exhibited at the *Kunsthalle Bremen* from October-November 1938. When the drawing was auctioned off once again in 2007, the auction catalog mentioned the provenance collection Arnold Blome and the exhibition at the *Kunsthalle Bremen* in 1938. The drawing subsequently came in possession of a German private art collection, which remarkably informed the heirs of Professor Glaser about the whereabouts of this drawing.

In acknowledgement of this historical background the restitution claim by the heirs of Professor Glaser was recognized. In a proceeding directed by expertise, respect and fairness, the heirs of Professor Glaser and the German art collector agreed to a payment of appropriate compensation. The heirs of Professor Glaser accepted the request that the drawing remains in the private collection.

The agreement was reached in accordance with the principles of the 1998 Washington Conference as well as the '1999 Joint Declaration of the German Federal Government, the Federal States and the National Association of Local Authorities on the trace and the return of Nazi-confiscated art, especially Jewish property' and its call that privately organized institutions and individuals join these principles and practices. The agreement follows the just and fair solutions, which the heirs of Professor Glaser achieved with the City of Hannover (Niedersächsisches Landesmuseum), the Dutch Restitution Committee (Rijksmuseum), the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, Bayerischen Staatsgemäldesammlungen (Bavarian State Painting Collections), the Germanische

Nationalmuseum, the City of Cologne (Museum Ludwig) and the City of Hamburg (Kunsthalle Hamburg).

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