

CLAUDE LORRAIN

French (in fact Roman) school, 1600 - 1682.

Claude Gellée, called Le Lorrain, one of the two leading landscape painters of the seventeenth century, was born at Chamagne in Lorraine, but was in Rome by about 1613 and spent most of his life there. He seems to have been trained by Agostino Tassi, "Goffredo" (perhaps Gottfried Wals) and Claude Deruet, or at least to have taken guidance from their work.⁽¹⁾ He returned to Lorraine for a spell in 1625, but went back to Rome in 1627 and started an independent career then, devoted entirely to landscape painting. By about 1634 he had achieved sufficient success for Sebastien Bourdon to fake one of his pictures.⁽²⁾ Drawings of the compositions of two hundred of his major pictures (running in date from about 1630 to about 1678) are contained in the Liber Veritatis at Chatsworth, and were the basis for a book of engravings with the same title published in 1777. After 1640 he seems to have received stimulus from the landscapes of Domenichino. Receiving commissions from kings and ambassadors, popes and cardinals --including Richelieu --, he achieved tremendous popularity in his lifetime, and he made the Liber Veritatis as a protection against the work of imitators.

Landscape with Rest on the Flight into Egypt

oil on canvas, 29 x 38 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins.

inscr. on stone at bottom center "CLAV

IN...." (the rest illegible)

Colln. Edith Clowes.

Condition

Fair ; somewhat rubbed.⁽³⁾

Provenance

Viscount Palmerston, Broadlands (from 1773)⁽⁴⁾; by descent to Lord Palmerston, Lord Mount-Temple and Hon. Evelyn Ashley ; Sir E. Guinness, later Earl of Iveagh (purchased 1889) ; Iveagh sale, Christie's, Jul.10, 1953, no.57 (~~sold to~~ ^{sold to} Knoedler) ; Agnews, London (purchased 1957)⁽⁵⁾. Acquired by Mrs Clowes in 1959.

Literature

M.Rothlisberger, "Les fresques de Claude Lorrain", Paragone, 10, 1959, pp.48 and 50, n.26 (ill.), and Claude Lorrain, The Paintings, 2 vols., New Haven, 1961, I, p.466, no. 204 ; II, fig.35.

Exhibited

British Institution, 1828, no.32⁽⁶⁾ ; Works by Old Masters, Royal Academy, 1884, no.162 ; Recently Acquired Pictures by Old Masters, Agnews, London, 1957, no.11.⁽⁷⁾

This landscape is to be dated, according to Rothlisberger, around 1635.

Notes.

1. See ^{on this problem} F.Boyer, "Les Années d'apprentissage de Claude Lorrain à Rome", in Etudes Italiennes, Paris, 1933, pp.308ff. ; J.Hess, Agostino Tassi, der Lehrer des Claude Lorrain, Munich, 1935, pp.32-34 ; and F-G Pariset, "Les debuts de Claude Deruet", Bull.de la Société de l'Histoire de l'Art Française (1947-48), 1949, pp.117ff.
2. Mémoires Inédites de l'Académie Royale, Paris, 1854, I, pp. 88f.

3. Comments taken from Rothlisberger, 1961 (see lit.)
4. He bought the painting, according to his records, from the Parisian dealer Durjeu. See Rothlisberger (1961, p.99, under no.IV,2) for this and the subsequent provenance.
5. See under ^{collns.} exhibitions.
6. As Landscape, Morning. with Flight into Egypt
7. Said there to be signed and indistinctly dated 1645 ; this cannot be right.
8. He convincingly compared the following works of the 1630s :
Judgement of Paris, dated 1633, colln. of Duke of Buccleuch ;
Landscape with Rest on Flight into Egypt, assigned to 1634-35, Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha ; same subject, assigned to ca. 1638-39, private colln. ; and Landscape dated 1633 or 1635, Princeton Univ. Art Museum (his nos. 201, 221, 228-~~29~~).