

North Netherlandish 15th Century,
The Adoration of the Magi



KRESS CATALOGUE NUMBER

K2

IDENTIFIER

2040

ARTIST

North Netherlandish 15th Century

NATIONALITY

Netherlandish

DATE

fourth quarter 15th century

MEDIUM

oil on canvas, transferred to panel

TYPE OF OBJECT

Painting

DIMENSIONS

183 x 164.5 cm (72 1/16 x 64 3/4 in)

LOCATION

National Gallery of Art, Washington, District of Columbia

PROVENANCE

Probably from a convent in the province of Guipuzcoa, Spain. [1] (Arthur J. Sulley, London); [2] (Count Alessandro Contini-Bonacossi, Rome), by 1926; [3] purchased April 1927 by Samuel H. Kress [1863-1955], New York; [4] gift 1952 by exchange to NGA.

[1] The precise basis for the tradition that the picture comes from the Basque province of Guipuzcoa has not been found. In a statement in the NGA curatorial files, Robert Quinn analyzed the history and holdings of various monastic establishments in the province, concluding that the most likely candidates for ownership of the Adoration were the Convento de Bidaurrete and the Convento de Aránzazu, both in Oñate; see also Colin Eisler, *Paintings from the Samuel H. Kress Collection: European Schools Excluding Italian* (Oxford, 1977), 65-66.
[2] See note 4; Max Friedlander, in a letter of 21 March 1937 to Kress commenting on a photograph of the painting, says "I have seen the original

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many years ago in London." This information and note 4 have been added to the provenance after the 1986 publication of the NGA systematic catalogue of Netherlandish paintings.

[3] See certificate of Roberto Longhi, November 1926, in the NGA curatorial files.

[4] The bill of sale for eight paintings is dated 6 April 1927 (copy in NGA curatorial files). The painting is described as follows: "A picture representing The Adoration of the Maggi[sic] - An early painting attributed to the Dutch School, said to be painted not later than 1480. Transferred from an oaken panel. From a Convent in Spain. From Mr. A. S. [sic] Sulley London." A label on the back of the painting repeats this, except for reference to Sulley, which is handwritten on the typewritten bill of sale.

ACCESSION NUMBER

1952.5.41

KRESS NUMBER

2

LEGACY NGA NUMBER

1120

1 ACQUISITION

Contini Bonacossi, Alessandro, April 6, 1927

1 DISTRIBUTION

Gift to National Gallery of Art, October 15, 1952

EXTERNAL LINKS

Related Collection Record

<https://www.nga.gov/collection/art-object-page.41654.html>

Related National Gallery of Art Library Image Collections Record

https://library.nga.gov/permalink/01NGA_INST/1p5jkvq/alma99943453804896

Related National Gallery of Art Systematic Catalog

<https://www.nga.gov/content/dam/ngaweb/research/publications/pdfs/early-netherlandish-painting.pdf>

10 ARCHIVAL ITEMS



K0002 - Expert opinion by Burg Berger, 1931

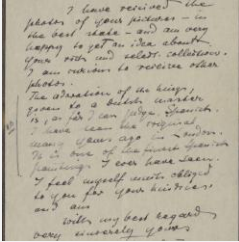


K0002 - Alan Burroughs report, circa 1930s-1940s

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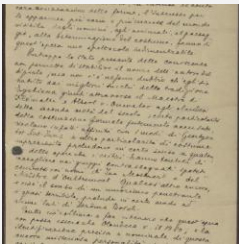
K0002 - Expert opinion by Fiocco, circa 1930s-1940s



K0002 - Expert opinion by Friedlaender, 1937



K0002 - Expert opinion by Friedlaender, 1938

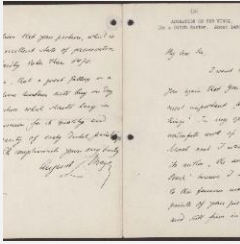


K0002 - Expert opinion by Longhi, 1926



K0002 - Expert opinion by Marle et al., circa 1920s-1930s

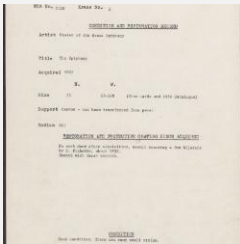
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K0002 - Expert opinion by Mayer, 1926



K0002 - Expert opinion by Suida, 1935



K0002 - Condition and restoration record, circa 1950s-1960s

RECORD LINK

<https://kress.nga.gov/Detail/objects/2040>