

Peter Paul Rubens, 1577-1640
Decius Mus Addressing the Legions



KRESS CATALOGUE NUMBER

K2117

IDENTIFIER

652

ARTIST

Rubens, Peter Paul, Sir, 1577-1640

NATIONALITY

Flemish

DATE

probably 1616

MEDIUM

oil on hardboard, transferred from wood and canvas

TYPE OF OBJECT

Painting

DIMENSIONS

80.7 x 84.7 cm (31 3/4 x 33 3/8 in)

LOCATION

National Gallery of Art, Washington, District of Columbia

PROVENANCE

Pierre-Louis-Paul Randon de Boisset [1709-1776], Paris; (his estate sale, Paris, 27 February 1777, no. 31). [1] Destouches, Paris; (his sale, A.J. LeBrun and Ph. Fr. Juénot, Paris, 21 March 1794, no. 5); John Trumbull [1756-1843], Paris and New York; (his sale, Christie's, London, 17 February 1797, no. 25). Fritz August von Kaulbach [1850-1920], Munich; [2] (his estate sale, Hugo Helbing, Munich, 29-30 October 1929, no. 194). [3] (Frederick Mont, Inc., New York); sold 8 February 1955 to the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, New York; gift 1957 to NGA.

[1] Julius S. Held, *The Oil Sketches of Peter Paul Rubens. A Critical Catalogue*, 2 vols., Princeton, 1980: 1:25, questions whether NGA 1957.14.2 was in this sale because the catalogue describes the work as being on panel whereas an old inscription on the verso of the painting once indicated that it had been transferred from panel to canvas in 1773 (see note 3). Held's reservations,

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however, seem unwarranted since the description of the scene (even though the subject is wrongly interpreted as "Germanicus à qui on harangue ou donne des orders à cinq officiers...") and the dimensions conform to the Gallery's painting.

[2] Oldenbourg, Rudolf, ed. *P.P. Rubens. Des Meisters Gemälde*. Berlin and Leipzig, 1921: 460.

[3] An inscription on the verso of the painting was recorded in the 1929 sales catalogue as reading: "relevé de sure bois et remis sure toile par hacquin en 1773." Colin Eisler, *Paintings from the Samuel H. Kress Collection: European Schools Excluding Italian*, Oxford, 1977: 105, lists the Newhouse Galleries, New York, at this point in the provenance; Mont was associated with Newhouse. The copy of the Helbing sale catalogue in the Knoedler Library German Sales microfiche is not annotated with a buyer's name.

ACCESSION NUMBER

1957.14.2

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LEGACY NGA NUMBER

1394

1 ACQUISITION

Frederick Mont, Inc., February 8, 1955

1 DISTRIBUTION

Gift to National Gallery of Art, January 22, 1958

EXTERNAL LINKS

Related Collection Record

<https://www.nga.gov/collection/art-object-page.43721.html>

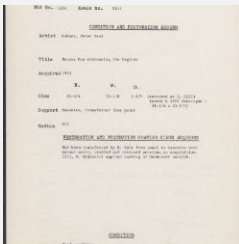
Related National Gallery of Art Library Image Collections Record

https://library.nga.gov/permalink/01NGA_INST/1p5jkvq/alma99573543804896

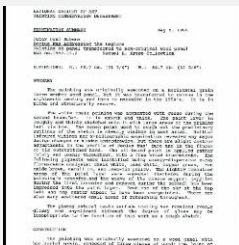
Related National Gallery of Art Systematic Catalog

https://library.nga.gov/permalink/01NGA_INST/1cl1g8d/alma992321823504896

4 ARCHIVAL ITEMS

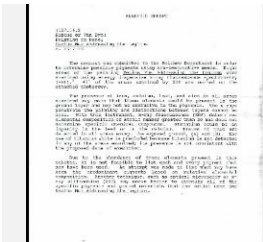


K2117 - Condition and restoration record, circa 1950s-1960s

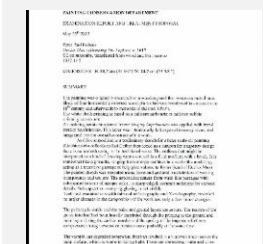


K2117 - Examination summary, 1990

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K2117 - Scientific analysis report, 1990



K2117 - Examination summary and treatment proposal, 2013

RECORD LINK

<https://kress.nga.gov/Detail/objects/652>