

Ercole de' Roberti, c. 1455/1456-1496
Giovanni II Bentivoglio

**KRESS CATALOGUE NUMBER**

K408

IDENTIFIER

937

ARTIST

Roberti, Ercole de', c. 1455/1456-1496

NATIONALITY

Italian

DATE

c. 1474/1477

MEDIUM

tempera on poplar panel

TYPE OF OBJECT

Painting

DIMENSIONS

54 x 38.1 cm (21 1/4 x 15 in)

LOCATION

National Gallery of Art, Washington, District of Columbia

PROVENANCE

Acquired in Italy by Louis-Charles Timbal [1821-1880], Paris, before 1871; [1] sold 29 November 1872 with his collection to Gustave Dreyfus [1837-1914], Paris; [2] his heirs; sold 1930 with the entire Dreyfus collection to (Duveen Brothers, Inc., London, New York, and Paris); sold May 1936 to the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, New York; [3] gift 1939 to NGA. [1] The painting was attributed by Timbal to Piero, according to the list of art objects sold by Timbal to Dreyfus (copy of the list in NGA curatorial files, dated 29 November 1872). A provenance from the University in Bologna, as reported by Rosemarie Molajoli, *L'opera completa di Cosmé Tura e i grandi pittori ferraresi del suo tempo: Francesco Cossa e Ercole de' Roberti*, Milan, 1974: 98, and Fern Rusk Shapley, *Catalogue of the Italian Paintings*, 2 vols., Washington, D.C., 1979: 1:407, remains undemonstrated. Nor is it convincing to identify the NGA's painting and its pendant, *Ginevra Bentivoglio* (NGA 1939.1.220), with likenesses mentioned by Antonio di Paolo Masini in the seventeenth century. Molajoli and Shapley (see above citations) stated that, according to

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Masini's *Bologna perlustrata*, Bologna, 1966: Part I, 213, there were portraits attributed to Cossa by Masini that fit the description of the NGA pair. The erroneous identification of the Gallery's portraits with those mentioned by Masini is repeated by Monica Molteni, *Ercole de' Roberti*, Milan, 1995: 129. Actually, the portraits discussed by Masini flanked the Madonna del Baraccano, an older work that Giovanni I Bentivoglio and Bente Bentivoglio had Cossa alter in the 1470s. Even supposing that Masini's passage somehow describes the NGA portraits, one must note that the male sitter is described as being eighteen years of age (far younger than Giovanni II's likeness in the NGA) and the directions the couple face do not correspond to Masini's description ("Bente vi fabricò un altare, ed a destra vi si fece ritrare al vivo in età d'anni 18 ed a sinistra la sudetta Donna, per mano del pittore Francesco Cossa..." ["Bente had an altar built there and to the right had himself portrayed at the age of 18 and at the left the earlier-mentioned woman, by the hand of Francesco Cossa"]). Furthermore, the whole passage by Masini is criticized for its inaccuracies and impossible dates by an editor of Giovanni Baruffaldi, *Vite de' pittori e scultori ferrarese*, 2 vols., Ferrara, 1844: 1:17-19. In short, there is no known provenance for the NGA's diptych from before the nineteenth century. [2] The provenance previous to 1872 is known from Fritz Harck, "Die Fresken im Palazzo Schifanoia in Ferrara," *Jb Berlin* 5 (1884): 118; Wilhelm Bode, "Die Ausbeute aus den Magazinen der Königlichen Gemälde Galerie zu Berlin," *Jb Berlin* 8 (1887): 126; and information on the back of a photograph in the Frick Art Reference Library, New York. [3] The Duveen Brothers letter confirming the sale of thirteen paintings and one sculpture, including NGA 1939.1.219 and .220, is dated 18 May 1936; the provenance is given as "Dreyfus Coll'n" (copy in NGA curatorial files; Box 474, Folder 5, Duveen Brothers Records, accession number 960015, Research Library, The Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles).

ACCESSION NUMBER

1939.1.219

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408

PICHETTO NUMBER

8897

LEGACY NGA NUMBER

330

1 ACQUISITION

Duveen Brothers, 1936

1 DISTRIBUTION

Gift to National Gallery of Art, June 29, 1939

EXTERNAL LINKS

Related Collection Record

<https://www.nga.gov/collection/art-object-page.360.html>

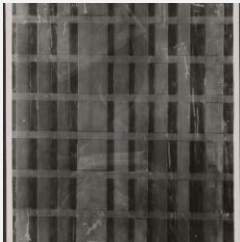
Related National Gallery of Art Library Image Collections Record

https://library.nga.gov/permalink/01NGA_INST/1p5jkvq/alma99208033804896

Related National Gallery of Art Systematic Catalog

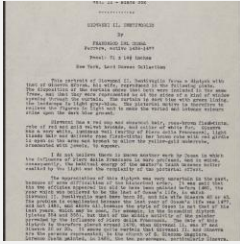
https://library.nga.gov/permalink/01NGA_INST/1cl1g8d/alma992014793504896

20 ARCHIVAL ITEMS



K0408 - Alan Burroughs report, circa 1930s-1940s

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K0408 - Expert opinion by L. Venturi, circa 1930s-1940s



K0408 - Art object record, circa 1930s-1950s



K0408 - Expert opinion by Berenson, circa 1920s-1950s



K0408 - Expert opinion by Berenson, circa 1920s-1950s



K0408 - Expert opinion by Fiocco, 1938

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K0408 - Treatment report, 2001



K0408 - Expert opinion by Longhi, circa 1920s-1950s



K0408 - Expert opinion by Perkins, circa 1920s-1940s

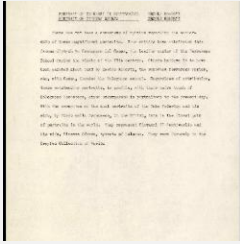


K0408 - Expert opinion by Suida, 1938

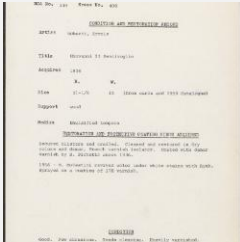


K0408 - Expert opinion by A. Venturi, circa 1920s-1930s

KRESS COLLECTION DIGITAL ARCHIVE



K0408, K0409 - Art object record, circa 1930s-1950s



K0408 - Condition and restoration record, circa 1950s-1960s



K0408 - Photograph, 1937

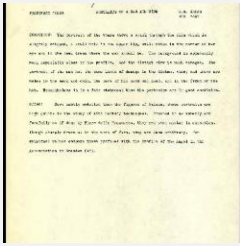


K0408 - Photograph, 1937

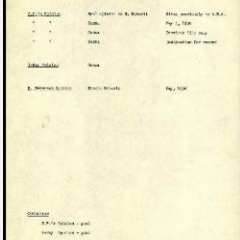


K0408 - Photograph, 1937

KRESS COLLECTION DIGITAL ARCHIVE



K0408 - Alan Burroughs report, circa 1930s-1940s



K0408 - Art object record, circa 1930s-1950s



K0408 - Work summary log, 1942-1957



K0408 - Photograph, 1957

RELATED ART OBJECT



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RECORD LINK

<https://kress.nga.gov/Detail/objects/937>