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PROMINENT OLD MASTER DEALER DISCOVERS MAX STERN PROPERTY IN HIS PRIVATE COLLECTION

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MONTREAL/May 6, 2009—

U.S. SPECIAL AGENTS RETURN SECOND NAZI-LOOTED PAINTING TO UNIVERSITIES IN LESS THAN TWO WEEKS

[Max Stern Project site](#)
[Auktion 392 site](#)
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Concordia University in Montreal, Canada, acting on behalf of the executors of the Estate of Dr. Max Stern and its three university beneficiaries (Concordia, McGill University/Montreal, Hebrew University/Jerusalem) is pleased to announce the recovery of a painting of St Jerome by famed Italian Baroque artist, Ludovico Carracci (1555-1619). It was among several hundred lost by the German-Jewish art dealer in a forced sale that took place at Lempertz Auction House in Cologne in 1937. The work will be turned over to the universities today by U.S. government representatives at the Leo Baeck Institute for the study of the history and culture of German-speaking Jewry (15 West 16th Street, New York, NY, at 10:30 am)



Only two weeks earlier, thanks to research by the New York State Banking Department’s Holocaust Claims Processing Office, authorities from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) seized a Dutch seventeenth century portrait of a bagpiper that had been in the possession of British and American art dealers soon after being reoffered at auction by Lempertz in 2007. As a result of ICE’s investigation of the bagpiper painting, another reputable Old Master dealer, immediately made the connection with the Carracci painting, which he too had purchased unwittingly at a Lempertz sale in 2000.

“Our research has determined that a number of German auction houses have regularly offered tainted property in the post-war period”, said Clarence Epstein, head of the Max Stern Art Restitution Project at Concordia University. “Offering works with problematic ownership histories into the international art market is clearly backfiring.”

“We are grateful for the cooperation of art dealer, Richard Feigen, in the return of the Carracci and hope that his leadership will encourage his peers in the trade to also take a good look at their own works”, said Peter J. Smith, Special Agent in Charge of ICE Office of Investigations in New York.

“This depiction of the hermit St. Jerome may have been utilized by prominent artists such as Sir Joshua Reynolds and passed through Italian and French

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aristocratic families before I acquired it for my own collection”, said Richard Feigen of Richard L. Feigen & Co. “It was as a result of the news on the “Bagpipe” that I made the connection between the Carracci and its forced sale in 1937. There was then no question in my mind on how to proceed”.

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Source :

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