

September 2014

An ex-gratia compensation payment has been agreed to resolve a case of spoliation concerning a drawing in the British Museum Prints and Drawings collection. *Coastal scene with an old lighthouse* (1997,0712.83) was drawn by the Dutch artist Allaert van Everdingen (1621-1675) around 1646-1675 and entered the Museum's collection by bequest in 1997. Research undertaken by the Holocaust Claims Processing Office (HCPO) of the New York State Department of Finance indicated the drawing was originally purchased at the 'forced' sale of the collection of the Jewish Bavarian-born lawyer Michael Berolzheimer (1866-1942), in 1939. His prints and drawings collection was sold anonymously at a Munich auction following his escape to America, along with his wife, the previous year. The British Museum is delighted that the heirs of Michael Berolzheimer want the drawing to remain part of the British Museum's collection.

Dr. Michael Berolzheimer's grand-nephew and namesake Michael G. Berolzheimer, speaking on behalf of the Heirs, expressed his thanks to the British Museum and Holocaust Claims Processing Office for the spirit of their cooperation with this restitution.

Jonathan Williams, Deputy Director, British Museum said "The British Museum is grateful to the work of the Berolzheimer heirs and the Holocaust Claims Processing Office for drawing this case to our attention. We are delighted that the drawing will remain in the British Museum's collection for the widest public benefit. In the collection it will serve as a permanent memorial both to the outstanding importance of the Berolzheimer collection, and to the terrible circumstances of its spoliation and dispersal. The British Museum provides detailed provenance

information on its drawings collection (more than 200,000 Old Master drawings) via the Museum's website to allow those researching potentially spoliated works to check descriptions of drawings in auction catalogues against the collection and where appropriate to highlight concerns regarding possible spoliation cases'.

The small drawing (50 by 84 mm) depicts a coastal scene with an old lighthouse and sailing boats in the background, a church spire in the right distance and is possibly a view of Scheveningen. It was completed in pen and brown ink with brown wash over black chalk. The British Museum has a strong collection of Allaert van Everdingen works – comprising 122 drawings and 467 prints. Van Everdingen was a prolific painter, draughtsman and printmaker who mainly worked in The Netherlands as well as in Norway and Sweden (1644-45). His drawn oeuvre consists largely of Northern landscapes and lively print studies for his illustrations to the Fable of Reynard the Fox. The drawing was bequeathed to the British Museum by Rosi Schilling in 1997, as part of a small album of 75 drawings compiled for her by her husband, the collector Edmund Schilling (1888-1974). The collection was put together on a modest budget by Edmund for personal interest, independent from his activities as an Old Master drawings dealer and adviser to collectors in London in the post-war period. Edmund Schilling was himself a refugee from Nazi Germany and moved to Britain in 1937. It appears that the drawing was originally purchased at the 'forced sale' of the collection of Michael Berolzheimer in 1939 by Dr. Max Graff of Herford Westphalia. The presumption is that it must have passed from Graff to Schilling (who knew each other from Schilling's Frankfurt years), presumably after the war.

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