



### Anton Graff

**Bildnis Johanna Dorothea Richter, der Mutter Ludwig Richters (Portrait of Johanna Dorothea Richter, Ludwig Richter's mother), c. 1813**

Oil on canvas, 57.4 x 46.7 cm (64.5 x 58.0 x 6.4 cm)

on recto, frame, lower centre, plate engraved: "Anton Graff 1736-1813 Bildnis der Mutter Ludwig Richters"

on verso, frame, lower left, remnant of a label of the shipping company Gustav Knauer; lower right, inscribed in blue: "139" [in circle]

on stretcher, centre left, purple stamp: "56"; upper centre, inscribed in blue: "Gurlitt Leihgabe" [?]; upper centre, purple stamp: "46"; upper right, handwritten label: "16."; centre right, purple stamp: "56"; lower right, inscribed in blue: "139" [in circle], lower centre, purple stamp: "46"

canvas relined and mounted on new stretcher

### Provenance:

(...)

With Theo Hermsen, Paris

By 20 September 1943: Hildebrand Gurlitt, Dresden, acquired through the above

Thence by descent to Cornelius Gurlitt, Munich/Salzburg

From 6 May 2014: Estate of Cornelius Gurlitt

### Bibliographical references:

*500 Handzeichnungen und Aquarelle alter und neuer Meister: Sammlung M\*\*\*-Dresden und aus anderem Besitz* (=Antiquariatskatalog Nr. 318). Auct. cat., Zahn & Jaensch, Dresden, n.d. [related to no. 107, ill.]

Berckenhagen, Ekhart. *Anton Graff: Leben und Werk*. Berlin: Deutscher Verlag für Kunstwissenschaft, 1967. [no. 1164, listed as whereabouts unknown]

**Primary sources:**

Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers:

Correspondence: BArch, N 1826/175, fol. 203 f. [=vol. 9, fol. 171 f.] Wolfgang Balzer to Hildebrand Gurlitt, 24 February 1948

Photographs: BArch, N 1826 Bild-0839 [=7.1\_F766], [11 August 1938]

Seizure Inventory [Sicherstellungsverzeichnis], 2012, no. SV (Part 2)/091

Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers – possible references:

Sales ledger 1937–41: 12 November 1938 [no. 54]  
4 February 1942 [no. 136]  
20 September 1943 [no. 1797]

Sales ledger 1937–?: 1938 [no. 1140]  
4 February 1942 [no. 1140]  
20 September 1943 [no. 1797]  
1944 [no. 1797]

Archives Nationales, Paris:

Licences d'exportation, no. 20144657/21 [7 and 9 October 1943, 18 November 1943]

Ministère des Affaires étrangères, Archives diplomatiques, Paris:

Achats allemands en France, no. 209SUP/824

CRA: exportations, douanes, nos. 209SUP/389, 209SUP/399 [3 December 1943, 10 and 20 October 1943]

Demandes de licences d'exportation, nos. 209SUP/869, 209SUP/1148 [19 January 1943 and 20 September 1943]

Service de remise en place des œuvres d'art, no. 209SUP/574 [14 and 20 February 1950]

Musée du Louvre, Documentation générale:

folder: Anton Graff

**Further sources consulted:**

Muther, Richard. *Anton Graff*. Leipzig: E. A. Seemann, 1881.

Vogel, Julius. *Anton Graff: Bildnisse von Zeitgenossen des Meisters in Nachbildungen der Originale*. Leipzig: Breitkopf & Härtel, 1898.

Waser, Otto. *Anton Graff von Winterthur: Bildnisse des Meisters*. Zurich and Leipzig: Kunstverein Winterthur, 1903.

*Kunsthandlung P. Rusch*. Cat., Dresden, n.d. [c. 1925].

Berlinische Galerie (Kunstarchiv Werner J. Schweiger)

Cultural Plunder by the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg: Database of Art Objects at the Jeu de Paume

Database "Central Collecting Point München"

Database "Kunstsammlung Hermann Göring"  
Getty Provenance Index, German Sales Catalogs  
Herkomst Gezocht  
Lootedart.com  
Lost Art  
Nationaal Archief, The Hague  
Répertoire des Biens Spoliés  
Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie, The Hague  
Sächsisches Hauptstaatsarchiv (HStA)  
Stadtarchiv Dresden  
Verzeichnis national wertvoller Kunstwerke ("Reichsliste von 1938")  
Witt Library, London

**Note:**

Portrait of Johanna Dorothea Richter, née Müller, the wife of the artist Karl August Richter. The couple's eldest son was the well-known landscape painter Ludwig Richter (1803 Dresden–1884 Dresden). A preliminary study for this portrait, rendered in black crayon with white heightening, is also known (Berckenhagen, no. 1163).

The personal papers found in Cornelius Gurlitt's Salzburg home include a collection of about 2,400 photographs of artworks. Photograph no. 7.1\_F766 is a reproduction of this work; on verso, a handwritten object description; at lower right, company stamp of the photographer Bergmann und Burchardi of Dresden, Wallstrasse 1. Attached to this photograph, a typed statement of authenticity by the art historian Karl Wilhelm Jähmig, dated 11 August 1938.

According to the extant sale ledgers, Hildebrand Gurlitt purchased a work described as Anton Graff, *Mother of L. Richter*, from the art dealer Paul Rusch of Dresden on 12 November 1938 for the sum of 2,000 reichmarks. He thereafter noted the sale of same work in February 1942 to Erich Hoefers for just 645 reichmarks.

An entry dated 20 September 1943 notes the acquisition from Theo Hermsen of another Graff female portrait for the sum of 12,000 reichmarks. French export licences reveal that his work was exported for Gurlitt through Hermsen. Post-war investigations in France suggest, that the work was located in a museum in Dresden in 1950. This assumption could not be further substantiated.

The Cornelius Gurlitt Papers also contain a letter of 24 February 1948 from Wolfgang Balzer, then director of the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden, confirming the identity of the sitter as Ludwig Richter's mother.

The numbers stamped in purple on the painting support refers to the stretcher size (metric measurement).

The original report on the provenance of this work, as submitted to the Task Force Schwabing Art Trove, was made accessible online at [www.taskforce-kunstfund.de](http://www.taskforce-kunstfund.de) as of 14 January 2016. That report was updated by the Gurlitt Provenance Research Project on 13 September 2018.

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