



Jean-Louis Forain

Femme en robe du soir et une chaise (Jeune femme en blanc)

(Woman in evening dress, standing by a long-legged chair [Young woman in white]), ca. 1880

Watercolour on cardboard, 210 x 205 mm

on recto, upper right, signed in pencil: "forain"

on verso, inscribed in pencil, upper left: "B", "8", [illegible]; upper right: "Forain"; lower right: "29 x 31" [rest illegible]

Provenance:

(...)

By latest 1933: Armand Dorville, Paris

Sale: *Vente aux enchères du cabinet d'un amateur parisien*, Hall du Savoy, Nice, 24–27 June 1942, no. 182, pl. XLIII

M./Mme. [?] Béatrice, Hôtel Royal, Nice, acquired at the above sale

(...)

(Probably acquired by Hildebrand Gurlitt in France in the 1940s)

By descent to Cornelius Gurlitt, Munich/Salzburg

From 6 May 2014: Estate of Cornelius Gurlitt

Exhibition:

Le Décor de la vie sous la III République (1870-1900), Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, April–July 1933. [no. 478, as *Femme en toilet de bal*]

Bibliographical references:

Beaux-Arts: chronique des arts et de la curiosité, pp. 14–16, vol. 79, no. 70, 20 June 1942.

Vente aux enchères du cabinet d'un amateur parisien. Auct. cat., Hall du Savoy, Nice, 24–27 June 1942. [lot 182, as *Jeune femme en blanc*, planche XLIII]

Primary sources:

Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers:

Photographs: BArch, N 1826 Bild-1820 [=12.1_F12155], [n.d.]

Seizure Inventory [Sicherstellungsverzeichnis], 2012, no. SV 41/137

Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers – possible references:

Sales ledger 1937–?: 17 November 1943 (?) [no. 1822a VII]

23 December 1943 (?) [no. 1822a VII]

Archives départementales des Alpes-Maritimes:

185 J 101. Auctioneer Terris, Procès-verbal, Hall du Savoy, Nice, 24 June 1942

Archives Nationales, Paris:

Commissariat général aux questions juives, nos. AJ/38/1319 and AJ/38/3855, dossier 2272

Musée des Arts-Décoratifs, Paris:

Expositions UCAD 1932–1934, Salle VI (1880–1890), no. 309 bis [ill.]

Notary Archive:

Last will and inheritance Armand Dorville, 2 May 1939, 21 May 1947 and 15 December 1947

Further sources consulted:

Exposition Forain des peintures, eaux-forts, dessins. Exh. cat., Galerie Bernheim Jeune, Paris, June–July 1906.

Exposition Forain des peintures, eaux-forts, dessins. Exh. cat., Galerie Bernheim Jeune, Paris, June–July 1909.

Exposition des œuvres de J.-L.-Forain: panneaux décoratifs, peintures, dessins, lithographies, eaux-fortes. Exh. cat., Musée des arts décoratifs, Paris, 6 January–15 February 1913.

Kunstler, Charles. *Forain*. Paris: Rieder, 1931.

Vaillat, Léandre. *En écoutant Forain*. Paris: Flammarion, 1931.

Exposition Forain. Exh. cat., Amigos del arte, Buenos Aires, 1933.

Exposition Forain. Exh. cat., Galerie Raphael Gérard, Paris, November 1937.

Exposition Forain (1852–1931): retrospective. Exh. cat., Palais de Tokio, 27 April–27 May 1945.

Forain. Exh. cat., Cultural division of the French Embassy, New York, October 1950.

J.-L. Forain, peintre, dessinateur et graveur. Exh. cat., Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, June–September, 1952.

Exhibit Twenty-One: Forain. Exh. cat., Sterling and Francine Clark Institute, Williamstown, Massachusetts, March 1963.

Forain: oeuvres de 1875–1895. Exh. cat., Galerie Philippe Reichenbach, Paris, 16–30 June 1965.

Browse, Lillian. *Forain: The Painter 1852–1931*. London: Paul Elek, 1978.

Forain: œuvres. Exh. cat., Musée Marmottan, Paris, 1978.

Bory, Jean-Francois. *Forain*. Paris: H. Veyrier, 1979.

Jean-Louis Forain: 1852–1931. Exh. cat., Musée Toulouse-Lautrec, Albi, June–September 1982.

Fondation de l'Hermitage, ed. *Jean-Louis Forain: Les années impressionnistes et post-impressionnistes*. Lausanne: self-publ., 1995.

La Comédie parisienne - Jean-Louis Forain. Exh. cat., Musée des Beaux Arts - Petit Palais, Paris March–June 2011.

Archives de Paris:

38 W 313. Ordonnances de restitution des biens spoliés (1945–1976)

Archives Nationales, Paris:

Archives Musée Nationaux, no. 20150044/61, 20150711/128

Commissariat général aux questions juives, nos. AJ/38/3933 dossier 818, AJ/38/5523 and AJ/38/6030

Bundesarchiv, Koblenz:

“Nizzalisten“, B323/314

Landesarchiv Berlin (Records of the Amt für Wiedergutmachung):

Dorville, nos. 9 WGA Au/312/59 and 9 WGA 1145/59

Mémorial de la Shoah, Paris:

CCCLXVI-37_001

Ministère des Affaires étrangères, Archives diplomatiques, Paris:

Commission de récupération artistique, nos. 209SUP/62 and 209SUP/406

Dossiers individuels déposés à l'Office des Biens et intérêts privés, no. 209SUP/619

National Archives, College Park, Maryland (NARA):

M1944, Roberts Commission, Looting: France: Personnel, Report of the Commission de Récupération, 27 August 1945

www.fold3.com/image/273365527 and subsequent pages (29 June 2017)

Archives Départementales du Rhône

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”

Galerie Heinemann Online

Getty Provenance Index, German Sales Catalogs

Heidelberger Digitale Bibliothek (Auktionskataloge; Heidelberger Historische Bestände)

Les Archives Municipales de Nice

Lootedart.com

Lost Art

Musée d'Orsay, Paris (Documentation de la conservation)

Répertoire des Biens Spoliés

Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie, The Hague
Verzeichnis national wertvoller Kunstwerke ("Reichsliste von 1938")
Witt Library, London

Note:

The first known owner of this work was Maître Armand Dorville (1875–1941), an advocate at the Paris Court of Appeal, who served as senator of Tarn-et-Garonne and was also a writer and an amateur artist. Dorville descended from a prominent Jewish family; his father Léon Dorville (1850–1927) was the long serving president of the Jewish charity Société la Bienfaisance Israélite. Armand Dorville was the owner of an important collection of modern French works, which were kept at his residence in Paris, at 16, rue Séguier.

After the Nazi invasion of Paris, Dorville fled to the south of France, taking some of his artworks with him. He died in 1941 in Cubjac in the Dordogne. Remaining childless, Dorville appointed his brother, sisters and nieces as his legal successors. All of them were of Jewish faith, persecuted by anti-Semitic laws. Dorville's sister, Valentine Lion (c. 1881–1944), her twin daughters Denise Falk and Monique Tabet (1920–1944), and her infant granddaughter Marie France Tabet (1940–1944) were arrested in Rhône-Alpes region in South-Eastern France in mid-March 1944 and deported first to Drancy, and to Auschwitz-Birkenau thereafter. All were murdered.

Following the laws of the French Vichy Regime, the inheritance of Armand Deville was put under administration. Amédée Croze was appointed as the preliminary administrator by the "Commissariat général aux Questions Juives". Dorville's collection was sold at a posthumous sale in mid-1942 at the Hall du Savoy in Nice, which was then still part of the demilitarized zone. Instead of furnishing the sale proceeds to the Vichy Regime, Croze subsequently secured the funds in two bank accounts. According to the results of said sale, this Forain watercolour was acquired by one Monsieur or Madame Béatrice, then residing at the Hôtel Royal, for the sum of 7,200 French francs.

All property that Dorville had to leave behind in Paris was seized by the Nazis in December 1943.

In his last will drawn up in 1939, Dorville bequeathed a part of his collection to several museums in France but mainly to the Musée des Arts-Décoratifs in Paris. One drawing from the 1942 sale (Lionne accroupie by Eugène Delacroix, now at the Musée du Louvre) is listed in the inventory of the Musées Nationaux Récupération (MNR no. REC 148).

In 1947, the sale proceeds of the 1942 auction were paid out of the two accounts (including interest) to the surviving heirs of Armand Dorville.

The personal papers found in Cornelius Gurlitt's Salzburg home include a collection of about 2,400 photographs of artworks. Photograph no. 12.1_F12155, is a reproduction of this work; inscribed on verso: "forain".

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 as of 14 January 2016. That report was updated by the Gurlitt Provenance Research Project on 6 December 2018.

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