

'Scarpa, O'

Publication/Creation

1914

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SCARPA, O., PARIS

1914

SOME PANELS BY JACQUES GAUTIER D'AGOTY.

THERE are at the present moment on private exhibition in Paris 12 painted panels attributed to Jacques Gautier d'Agoty which would form a remarkable adornment to any great medical library or institute if they should have the good fortune to find a generous purchaser. We reproduce here three of the pictures, the enormous reduction being intimated by the fact that each panel measures 2.30 metres in height by 0.70 metre in breadth.

The origin of the panels, though their authenticity can hardly be challenged, is a little obscure. Jacques Gautier

general anatomy of the viscera with 18 coloured plates, is occasionally catalogued by booksellers, so that the 46 plates are familiar to some bibliophiles. In 1752 d'Agoty wrote a work entitled "Natural History," which dealt with philosophy, art (especially painting), science, and physical development, which was illustrated by 10 plates. He published also a refutation of the Newtonian theory of fundamental colours, under the title of "Chroa Genesis," in 1750, and conducted a controversy on the same subject in the London scientific papers of that year.

The 12 panels which are now in Paris, in the possession of M. Oscar Scarpa, at 12, rue Pierre Joignaux, Bois Colombes, appear to be certainly the origins of some of the plates, and not to have been themselves painted from the plates. This is in direct contradiction to the suggestion that they might



Reproductions from photographs of three of the D'Agoty panels.

d'Agoty, a member of the Dijon Academy of Sciences, was born in Marseilles in 1710, and died in Paris at the age of 75. He was a philosopher, a distinguished anatomist, an engraver, and, *teste* these panels, a painter of remarkable quality. He published in 1745 an illustrated work under the title "Myologie Complète en Couleur et Grandeur Naturelle," which was illustrated by 20 plates with letter-press furnished by Jacques François Duverney, lecturer and physician of the Jardin du Roy, and brother of the great Guichard Joseph Duverney. This book, separately or bound up with another work on the brain and the special organs of sense, illustrated from dissections made by Duverney, and sometimes including a third work on the

have been painted by d'Agoty's son Arnaud, who wrote several medical works illustrated by coloured plates.

The technique of the 12 panels is admirable, and the delicacy and beauty of the women's faces show them to be the work of a finished painter. The existence of the panels has long been an open secret, indeed, a description of them can be found in the "Bibliothèque Nationale," and their history, taken in connexion with the numerous plates illustrating d'Agoty's works, presents many interesting problems to the art critic. Their proper home is certainly some great institution, like the École de Médecine at Paris or the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Encl.

Mr C. J. S. Thompson

I return herewith papers relating to the purchase of twelve pictures from Mr O. Scarpa.

It would appear as if up to the present time there has been no actual contract for sale. On the face of it there is nothing suspicious in the last letter from Mr Scarpa wherein he returned your remittance.

No question of copyright can arise with respect to the pictures as the painter has been dead for so many years.

The receipt which you take for the £500 when you pay it may be just the usual receipt. For instance:-

RECEIVED of Mr C.J.S.Thompson of "Grey Friars",
Harrow-on-the-Hill, England, the sum of £500
(Five hundred pounds) in full payment for *the*
twelve oil paintings by Jacques Gautier D'agoty
~~referred to in "The Lancet" of February 21, 1914,~~
which may be described as follows :-

anatomical

.....
.....
.....

If you think it unnecessary to have a description of the pictures, all right, but it may be as well to have it.

I assume that these are the original paintings and that no copies of them exist. In view of the report in "The Lancet" which has been widely published the matter would seem *to be in order*

31st Mar 1914

SM

TÉLÉPHONE (CENTRAL
68.92
LIFT



HÔTEL RAYNAUD
20, RUE D'ANTIN
PARIS

~~Le~~ $\frac{1}{2}$ Ledoux-Lébar =

llédecii =. is preparing a work on the
author. - It will be published in about 2 years
after 7 years work -

Before that the same doctor - will give to
print a book on Léblond, who was
Gauthier Dagoty's master & produced
the 1st 3 colour picture in the
world, he being the inventor of the process
Léblond's works were printed in England -
he was born in Frankfurt - and a
(Naturalist) French subject holding
Charters from Louis XIV. his
domain - after death - passed to J. G. Dagoty.
who patented his 4 colour process. -

J. Gauthier Dagoty or
J. Gauthier Dagoty or
J. Gauthier d'Agoty or Agoti.

Head of the family - born about 1700 - in a
locality known to D^r Leducx-Heber - who
will divulge it in his book. -

Apprenticed to Leblond =.

His own works cover = !

philosophy - medicine - surgery

See British Museum

and another collection of old
medical books that exists in London

C. Dagoty. carried on a controversy
against Newton (his contemporary)
on the rainbow colors (Newtonian theory)
in the English Magazine called The Philosophical Magazine

Received from Mr. C.J.S. Thompson the sum of six hundred and twenty five (625) francs deposit on account of £500-0-0 (five hundred pounds) for the purchase of twelve anatomical oil paintings by Jacques Gautier D'Agoty, to be delivered to him, properly packed for transit as arranged, at Messrs. Stockwell's, 17 Rue d'Antin, Paris on April 1st or 2nd 1914.

Registered

Paris, March 28th 1914.

Dear Sir,

I found your favour of the 26th inst on my return home last night, too late to be answered before this mail.

Whilst thanking you for the remittance which you intended as earnest-money, I beg to return your cheque herewith, for I consider any pledge superfluous pending your arrival here in three days time.

I shall have much pleasure in telephoning to you in the evening of April the 1st, so as to arrange a meeting for the following morning,

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

Scarpa

Enclosure:

*1 cheque for £. 625-
1 receipt*

Mr. C. J. S. Thompson.
Grey Friars
Harrow-on-the-Hill.

Harrow

CT says was on
Harrow
papers

25 March 1914.

Dear Sir,

I enclose herewith a draft for six hundred and twenty five (625) francs, 5% deposit on account for the purchase of the twelve anatomical pictures of Jacques Gautier Dagoty. Will you please sign the enclosed receipt and return it to me by an early post.

I am crossing on Wednesday next and shall be at the Hotel Raynaud, Rue d'Antin at 6 p.m. that evening.

I shall be glad if you can have the pictures packed as arranged in their cases and delivered at Messrs. Stockwell's, 17 Rue d'Antin, Avenue de l'Opera, on the morning of that day, so that I can examine them and complete the purchase.

If inconvenient for you to see me on the evening of April 1st, I can see you at the Hotel between 9 and 9,30 the following morning, April 2nd. Kindly let me know which will suit you best.

Faithfully yours,

CT

M. O. Scarpa,
12, Rue Pierre Joignaux,
Bois Colombes,
Paris.



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In reply please refer to

M.D.

LONDON, E.C. 23rd March, 1914

Dear Sir,

The following is a copy of cable received from
Mr. Wellcome:-

"Must get Dagoty panels"

In view of your letter to Mr. Wellcome of the 20th inst., Mr. Pearson
has decided that it is not necessary to cable reply to Mr. Wellcome.

Yours faithfully,

E. Maund
Secty

Mr. C.J.S. Thompson,
54a, Wigmore Street

March 20th 1914

Dear Mr Thompson.

Altho I think that, by now, my letter of the 18th has reached you in due course, I hasten to enclose a copy herewith.

This, in answer to your favour of yesterday - Concerning the Baguettes, they will be taken away quite early if you still wish it. -

Awaiting your further news, I remain, Dear Sir
Yours faithfully

C. S. Thompson Esq.
Harrow on the Hill.

Copy?
Draft of letter to M.O. Scarpa - 20th March 1914

Harrow

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 18th inst. to hand this morning has crossed mine which I posted to you last night. I note your confirmation of the sale to me of the pictures referred to. I do not object to the canvases being packed in the flat gold slips in which they are framed, if there is no risk of the canvases becoming broken or damaged.

There need be no delay in delivery as it will certainly take you a week ^{or more} to get proper packing cases made and to deliver them in Paris. I have arranged that they may be delivered at the depot of Messrs Stockwell, 17 Rue d'Antin, Avenue de l'Opera at any time you wish. Messrs Stockwell will take charge of them for you and insure them ^{against fire} while in their keeping.

I shall arrive in Paris on the evening of Wednesday April 1st, and can meet you at Messrs Stockwell's the following morning at 9.30 a.m., inspect the pictures and take delivery of them, thus completing the sale. I will also then pay you for them.

Yours etc

C. J. S. T.

Marrow,

England.

19 March 1914.

Dear Sir,

Will you please let me know by return of post if you received my letter of the 16th inst., and if the arrangements I have made to take delivery of the D'Agoty pictures from you in Paris on April 2nd. will be convenient to you?

I have duly arranged with Messrs. Stockwell to receive the pictures as soon as you have had them packed and can have them brought to Paris.

I am,

Faithfully yours,

C. J. S. T.

Monsieur O. Scarpa,
12 Rue Pierre Joignaux,
Bois Colombes, Near Paris.

Paris, March 18th 1914.

C.J.S. Thompson, Esq.

" Grey Friars "

Harrow-on-The-Hill.

Dear Sir,

I have received but last night your letter of the 16th inst confirming your telegrams of the previous day according to which you have :

" Bought of me the twelve oil panels attributed to Jacques Gautier Dagoty,
" which have been inspected and approved by you at Bois-Colombes, a few
" days ago; the said panels to be delivered to you in Paris, 17 Rue d'An-
" tin, on or before April 2nd 1914, for the sum of :

" £.500.- (Five Hundred Pounds Sterling) or equivalent in francs
" at day's rate, payable cash on delivery; the packing to be at seller's
" cost.

I note your instructions re cases, observing however, that there are no frames beyond the flat gold baguettes surrounding the retouched paintings. I suggest that these may be left as they are, the packing in layers of brown paper between the faces being quite possible even in their present state.

As for the delay in delivery, I may tell you that the
seller's strongest objection to earlier proposals was precisely the
length of time asked for their conclusion. I should, therefore, ad-
vise that you either take a day's trip to receive the pictures de-
finitely or authorise your ^{Paris} Agents to do so in your absence within
the next few days.

I am, Dear Sir,

faithfully Yours,

J. Carpe

Copy

Paris, March 18th 1914

C.J.S. Thompson Esq.

Grey Friars.

Harrow on the Hill

Dear Sir.

I have received but last night your letter of the 16 inst, confirming your telegrams of the previous day, according to which you have:
" Bought of me the twelve oil panels attributed to Jacques Gautier Dagoty,
" which have been inspected and approved by you at Bois Colombes a few days
" ago; the said panels to be delivered to you in Paris 17 Rue D'Antin, on or
" or before the 2^d day of April 1914, for the sum of
" L.500- Five Hundred Pounds Sterling- or equivalent in Francs at day's
" rate, payable cash on delivery: the packing to be at seller's cost.

I note your instructions re cases, observing, however that there are no frames beyond the flat gold baguettes surrounding the retouched paintings. I suggest that these may be left as they are, the packing in layers of brown paper between the faces being quite possible in their present state.

As for the delivery, I may tell you that the seller's strongest objection to earlier proposals was precisely the length of time asked for their conclusion. I should, therefore, advise that you either take a day's trip to receive the pictures definitely or authorise your Paris Agrnts to do so in your absence within the next few days.

I am, Dear Sir,
faithfully yours.

Harrow.

16 March 1914.

Dear Sir,

Confirming my reply to your telegram of yesterday's date, I will agree to give twelve thousand five hundred (12,500) francs for the twelve panel oil paintings attributed to Jacques Gautier D'Agoty on delivery free in Paris to my agents, carefully packed in proper wooden cases. Kindly note the following re packing:-

The pictures should be taken out of their frames and packed face to face with a layer of glazed brown paper between them so that the surfaces may not touch, the backs of the panels should be protected by cardboard or corrugated packing. Four pictures could be placed in a case which would make three thick wood cases in all. The lids of the cases must be screwed down and not nailed. Will you kindly have this carried out and have the pictures delivered to my agents Messrs. Stockwell & Co., 17 Rue d'Antin, Avenue de l'Opera, Paris. I have some business in Paris on April 2nd, and could meet you at Stockwell's on that date, and after examination of the pictures would hand you cash for the same.

Kindly let me know if these arrangements are agreeable to you by an early post, and oblige,

Faithfully yours,

C. J. S.

M. O. Scarpa,
12 Rue Pierre Joignaux,
Bois Colombes, Near Paris.



EVRE & SPOTTISWOODE, Ltd., Lond.

N.B.—This Form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

If the Receiver of an Inland Telegram doubts its accuracy, he may have it repeated on payment of half the amount originally paid for its transmission, any fraction of 1d. less than $\frac{1}{2}$ d. being reckoned as $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; and if it be found that there was any inaccuracy, the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams.

Office of Origin and Service Instructions.

Office Stamp



Asnières 19 45 14 th

RP 8

Charges
to pay

s. d.

Handed
in at

Received
here at

8 54

TO { RP 8 Thompson Greyfriars Harrow
on file -

Angleterre

lowest obtainable five hundred pounds
payment and delivery Paris packet
scarpa Boiscolumbes

Accept terms
will be held tomorrow

Thompson

12 Rue Pierre Poigneaux
Boulevard des Colonnes.

March 10th. 1914.

C. J. Thompson Esq.,
Harrow-on-the-Hill.

Dear Sir,

In answer to your two favours - 6th & 7th inst - , I beg to inform you that your proposal appears too low; an offer - coming thro another channel - , and quite 4,000 - £ higher than yours, is as good as refused altho the intending purchaser leaves it open until next Saturday.

I hope you will see your way to making a more acceptable bid: Should you like to communicate with me telegraphically the following is my cable address:

Ardelay pour Scarpa
Paris.

Yours very faithfully

Scarpa

I desire to thank you for your letter of the
 10th inst. In reply, am sorry I cannot
 increase my offer to the amount you
 name - In order to meet you in this
 matter if the owner will pay
 Cost of packing the pictures in
 proper cases ^{swiss made} 11,250 francs -

~~This is the best I can~~

Please repeat this as final -
 If accepted ^{Kady} please cable me not
 later than Saturday next - I will
 will leave the offer open till

400	10,000	40
10	2,000	4
<u>410</u>		<u>44</u>
160		160
560		

2000

40
 12
440

10000
 1000
 250



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Office Stamp.

Handed in at

Office of Origin and Service Instructions

Words

Charges to pay

4
73

Beshborough
Rd. Harrow

12



THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY ANY ENQUIRY RESPECTING THIS TELEGRAM.

Received here at

TO

Thompson Gasley
mews Wigmor St
W

10.11.18

A.M.

here Paris not delivered
insufficient address

$$\begin{array}{r} 40 \\ 12 \\ \hline 480 \\ 480 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 1000 \\ 12 \\ \hline 12000 \\ 15000 \end{array}$$

Harrow

E N G L A N D.

12 March 1914.

Dear Sir,

I desire to thank you for your letter of the 10th inst. and in reply am sorry I cannot increase my offer to the amount you name.

In order, however, to meet you in the matter, if the owner will pay the cost of packing the pictures in suitable cases, ready for transit, I will make my offer 11, 250 (eleven thousand two hundred and fifty) francs.

Please regard this as final. If accepted, kindly cable me not later than Saturday next, the 14th inst., as I can only leave the offer open until that date.

M. O. Scarpa.

Faithfully yours,

C 957

Harrow

England.

7 March 1914.

Dear Sir,

Qualifying my letter to you of yesterday's date, the offer I there made for the twelve panel pictures I can only leave open until Thursday next, the 12th inst. as I am contemplating some large purchases. Should the owner accept my offer, I will pay a deposit, and the balance on delivery at my warehouse in London.

I am,

Faithfully yours,

C.J.S.T.

M. O. Scarpa,
12 Rue Pierre Joignaux,
Bois Colombes,
Near Paris.

Harrow,

E N G L A N D.

6 March 1914.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 4th inst. respecting the anatomical panel pictures in which you ask me on behalf of the owner to make an offer, I consider that ten thousand francs would be a good value for the twelve panels in their present condition, and I should be prepared to give that amount for them. As you are doubtless aware, it will cost a considerable amount to put them in anything like proper and good condition, and this should certainly be taken into account.

Faithfully yours,

C.T.

O. Scarpa Esq.

3 March 1914.

Dear Sir,

With reference to the twelve anatomical panels which you kindly allowed me to inspect on Saturday morning, I must say that I was disappointed after seeing them, and in my opinion the condition of the majority of them greatly detracts from their value. It would cost a terrible amount to put them in anything like good order. Therefore I am sorry I cannot see my way to pay so high a price as you ask, but if the owner is willing to accept a moderate amount for the pictures as they stand, I should be willing to give the matter further consideration if you will let me know the very lowest price that he would accept.

Thanking you for your courtesy, and for the trouble you have taken,

I am,

Faithfully yours,

M. O. Scarpa,
12 Rue Pierre Joignaux,
Bois Colombes,
Near Paris.

12 Rue Pierre Jifneau
Bois Colombes

Paris

4/3/1914

Dear Sir

In reply to your
letter of the 3rd inst. I am
directed to ask that you may
kindly make an offer which
the ones will then consider.

I remain, dear Sir

Yours faithfully

C. J. L. Thompson
Harro.

C. J. L. Thompson

Port Colombes
12 Rue René Joliveau.

26 février 1914

Monsieur

J'ai l'honneur de vous accuser réception
de votre lettre datée de Montpellier. Pour vous
informer que je serai heureuse de recevoir
votre visite Dimanche prochain - entre
2^h et 5^h p.m. ou 10^h du matin & midi.

Si vous voudrez bien m'indiquer
par quel train - partant de St-Lazare - vous
comptez voyager, je vous attendrai bien
volontiers à la Gare de Port Colombes
afin de vous faciliter le chemin.

Veuillez croire, Monsieur, en
ma considération toute distinguée

Scarpa