

Christie 1/7/1923
INV. 603171
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Catena

GIOVANNI BELLINI.

THE ADORATION OF THE SHEPHERDS

In front of a pent-house with thatched roof, the Madonna, in red dress and blue cloak lined with red, kneels on the ground bending in adoration over the Infant Saviour, Who lies asleep in a wicker cradle; St. Joseph is seated by her side, in dark dress with large brown cloak, reverently looking on with his hands together as in prayer, the ox and the ass are seen in the background; on the left is a shepherd, in brown dress, kneeling on his left knee, his arms crossed, holding a wooden staff, by his side are a basket of eggs and two dead pigeons, and behind is a younger peasant, in white shirt with blue slashed coat, carrying a wooden staff on his right shoulder and holding his hat in his left hand; in the upper right-hand corner an Angel is seen descending; through the open wooden gates of the stable-yard is a mountainous landscape, with a castle

48 in. by 82 in.

From the Giustiniani Palace at Venice, and sent to England by Giovanni Maria Sasso in 1791

From the Collection of Sir Abraham Hume, Bart.

Exhibited at Burlington House, 1879, 1893 and 1902

Exhibited at the New Gallery, 1894-5

Exhibited at the Burlington Fine Arts Club, 1912

The attribution to Giovanni Bellini is the traditional one, though the picture is considered to be by the same hand as the "St. Jerome in his Study," and "A Warrior Adoring the Infant Saviour," Nos. 234 and 694 in the National Gallery, which are now given to VINCENZO CATENA. These were formerly attributed No. 234 to Giovanni Bellini and No. 694 to Giorgione. Other unsigned works by Catena have been also wrongly ascribed to him