

CIRO FERRI
(Rome 1634 - 1689)

Ferri, a pupil of Pietro da Cortona, was not only his most faithful disciple as a painter, but also imitated his versatility in practising as an architect. In 1659 he was summoned to Florence to complete Cortona's frescoes in the Pitti Palace, using his master's cartoons to finish the Sala d'Apollo, but his own for the Sala di Saturno. In 1665-7 he went to Bergamo to fresco the church of S. Maria Maggiore, and possibly visited Venice to improve his master of colour. On the death of Cortona in 1669 he vied with Baciccio and Maratta for the title of the leading painter in Rome. Having kept up his contacts with Florence, he was appointed by Cosimo III to teach drawing in the Grand-Ducal Academy in Rome, in which most of the creative generation of Florentine Baroque sculptors were trained..

Moses and the daughters of Jethro

Canvas

119 x 164.5 cm.

This picture seems to be identical with the one published by Otto Grautoff (Nicolas Poussin, vol. II, Munich 1914, p. 266) with a wrong reference to Waagen (vol. III, p. 347) but a correct one to Devonshire House. Waagen seems to contain no reference to the picture, either at the place cited or anywhere else, under whatever attribution; nevertheless a Ferri of this subject was in Devonshire House (cf. London and its Environs described, vol. II (1761), p. 227) but is no longer in the Devonshire collections, and so is probably identifiable with this painting. It was published, with the correct attribution of Ferri restored and with the location given as Devonshire House by Hermann Voss, Die Malerei des Barock in Rom, Berlin, 1924, pl. 276a. Another version, from Welbeck, was sold at Christie's, 17th December 1981, lot 42. This, in turn, may be the picture now in the Sarah Campbell Blaffer Foundation (cf. Apollo, August 1982, p. 115).

Engraved with the signatures: Cyrus Ferrus Invenit et Pinx. Petrus Aquila Sculp.
Printed by Iacob de Rubeis and inscribed to Cardinal Benedetto Pamphilj.
(Gabinetto dei Disegni e Stampe, Rome, vol. 37, H.17, nos. 69313 & 69314)

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14 years
were
du M.

Hermann Voss

Die Malerei des Barock in Rom

n. 276