

00. B05673

9 NATIVITY

Canvas

60 × 110 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. (152 × 281 cm.)

This picture, which in 1966 was with French & Co in New York, was published by Ferrari and Scavizzi (*cf. vol. II, p. 132; vol. III, fig. 248*) who considered it directly related to secure works of 1683-4 and erroneously gave the dimensions as 120 × 216 cm. A closer examination of the picture, recently fully cleaned, allows a more accurate judgement of its pictorial quality and suggests a correction of its dating, placing it two or three years earlier.

The softly diffused, almost lunar light and other characteristic effects link it to works definitely belonging to the first Florentine period, like for example, the "Annunciation to the Shepherds" formerly in the Del Rosso collection and now in that of the Marchesa Mannucci Benincasa Capponi (*op. cit., vol. II, p. 108; vol. III, fig. 186; S. Meloni, in: Paragone, no. 267, 1972, p. 63*) and the "Adoration of the Shepherds" formerly in the Mansi collection at Lucca (*cf. S. Meloni, op. cit., p. 35, fig. 38*). In all these works we find Bassano-inspired solutions to the problems of lighting in which Giordano was so manifestly involved at the beginning of his stay in Florence.

Bibl.: Ferrari and Scavizzi, *op. cit.*, vol. II, p. 132; vol. III, fig. 148.
S. Meloni Trkulja, Luca Giordano a Firenze, in: *Paragone*, no. 267, 1972, pp. 25-74.

Exh: Itcm, Summer 1975 no 9.