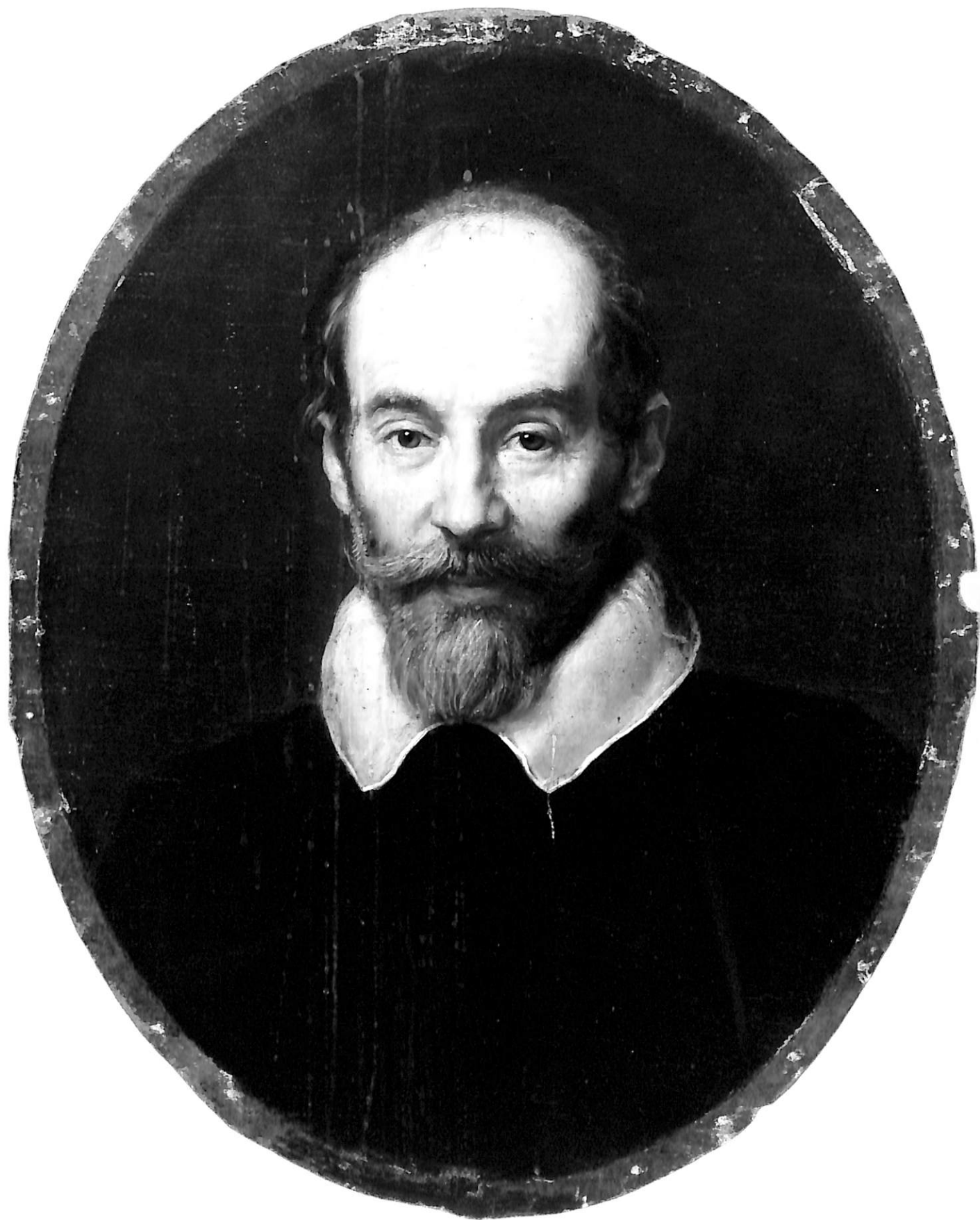




MATTHIESEN GALLERY

Old Master and 19th Century Paintings Drawings and Sculpture

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Professor Giuliano Briganti
Palazzo Bernini
12a Via della Mercede
Rome
Italy

11th December 1992

Dear Giuliano,

You will remember that I left with you a black and white photograph of a painting, a Portrait of a Man dressed Black, which we thought might be connected to Domenichino. Unfortunately, this attribution has been challenged by all the Domenichino experts, and therefore we have to fall back on the fact that the painting was executed in Rome between 1615 and 1625. It has been suggested that the painting could be by Rubens or van Dyck, which is something I do not totally believe, certainly not van Dyck.

As the painting is of the highest quality and we are now at something of a loss, I would be very grateful if you could take some time to study the picture as it has to have been executed by a major artist on account of its quality. If you like, I will arrange for a colour transparency if this would help.

In any case, please do keep me in touch about the putative Melozza da Forli, which looked to be very beautiful indeed.

With all best wishes for Christmas and the New Year,

Yours sincerely,

signed: in absence E. Jansen

PATRICK MATTHIESEN, DIRECTOR