

MARCO GRASSI

Thank you

what are the
subjects 2

Sunday 25/7

Dear Helen,

I am asking the office to forward to you this second set of photos of the two Sebastiano Ricci, and I shall leave with Mrs. Borghero a copy of the recent "Enciclopedia d'Arte Italiana" where one of them is published....this is not, strictly speaking, a 'critical' publication, so, for all intents and purposes, the paintings are still unrecorded. As to the provenance, I can now tell you that it is the same as both the Lucas van Leyden St. Peter, and the ~~St. Peter~~ i.e. the collection of Wilhelm Suida, who until he died in the late '40s was one of the great connoisseurs of Italian art. His daughter, Bertina Suida-Manning, is slowly and very quietly disposing of the items comprising a sort of 'secret collection', through our friend in Campione. It is important that, as much as possible, we maintain great discretion on this fact...it's a wonderful source and it would be a pity to queer it. Just think that for years Suida was the principal adviser to the Kress brothers...it the years they were active, nothing of importance escaped him...or Contini...or Rudolph! As a measure of how jealously these pictures have been guarded, even Mario - who obviously was very involved with Kress and is an intimate friend of the Mannings - did not know of these items.

Incidentally, Mario was enormously taken with the two ~~Ricci~~ he asked me to tell you that in his long career he had never come across two finer examples of Sebastiano's art. He too compared these with the Hampton Court paintings - though Ricci is not a rare master, this level of quality is truly exceptional...coupled with an ideal size and subject and in a pristine state of conservation. Congratulations!....you have added a very important chapter to the Venetian collection.

Hope you are enjoying a
pleasant vacation

Best to Denise,

Yours
Manning