

as from: 5 Edith Grove, Chelsea, London SW10 0JZ

23 November 1982

Dear Mr de Pury,

Thank you so much for your letter of 9 November and for the excellent photographs.

I had already verified the Bathsheba as my no.303, but did not have the dimensions in my files. It clearly relates to two other sketches for pictures painted for the House of Savoy (nos 480 and 483 in the Rizzoli edition of my book) and so probably dates from c.1727.

The other two pictures are very much earlier, and most probably date from Ricci's period in Rome, between 1691 and 1694. I was in fact given photographs of them two years ago by Clyde Newhouse, to whom they once belonged, and although I have never seen the actual canvases they appear to be extremely attractive works.

You may care to know that both are wrongly titled: the so-called Birth of Venus is nothing to do with that goddess, since her attributes, a pair of doves, are nowhere to be seen. The figure with the trident is obviously Neptune and the female is therefore presumably Amphitrite, the god's reluctant bride, thus the subject should be Neptune and Amphitrite (see the Rizzoli ed., no. 179, for a version). The companion piece is a Bacchus and Ariadne depicting the moment when Venus (left, accompanied by Cupid) crowns the bride with a circlet of seven stars. Incidentally, this figure is very close to that of the guardian angel in the Church of the Carmine, Pavia (no.336, no.51 in Rizzoli ed.) which is documented to before 1694. The sleeping putti are also similar to one in the Allegory of the Arts (no. 444, Rizzoli ed. no.50), which I date 1690 - 94. I trust that this information will be useful, and that if you quote it you will be good enough to acknowledge me as its source.

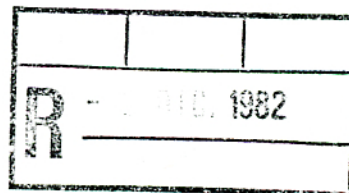
In conclusion, may I say how much I enjoyed my visit to Daylesford, and in particular the opportunity to look at the collection with Baron Thyssen himself. I certainly hope to visit Lugano one day and will write to you well in advance of my impending arrival.

Yours sincerely,

Jeffery Daniels

Jeffery Daniels

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