

1913-02-03

AFSENDER

Martin Birnbaum

MODTAGER

Edith Willumsen

FAKTA

Dokumenttype:

Brev

Afsendersted:

New York (USA)

Modtagersted:

Hellerup (Danmark)

Omtalte personer:

El Greco

Jens Ferdinand Willumsen

Arkivplacering:

J.F. Willumsens Museum

Arkivkasse: C/III/6 - GrecoBogen

DOKUMENTINDHOLD

Birnbaum skriver til Edith Willumsen, at han ikke kan sælge Hyrdernes tilbedelse til den pris, som Willumsen vil have for det. Birnbaum kender flere El Greco-samlere, men eftersom maleriet er fra El Grecos tidlige periode og ikke er det bedste, så kan det umuligt sælges for den pris, Willumsen vil have for det. Hvis Willumsen vælger at nedsætte prisen til 25.000-30.000 \$, er det dog en anden sag. Derudover er det nødvendigt, at maleriet bliver sendt til Amerika, så køberne kan se det.

OMTALTE VÆRKER

El Greco: *Hyrdernes tilbedelse* (ca. 1568-1569) tempera på træ, 63 x 76 cm. F. Willumsen Museum, G.S. 345 vt.: Goya: *Hoved af en mand* (udat.) oliefarve på træ, 14.3 x 12.4 cm. F. Willumsens Museum, G.S. 48 (k/cFuf)



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CABLE ADDRESS:--WIZARD, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE MURRAY HILL, 1464

NEW YORK,

Feb. 3, 1913

305 MADISON AVENUE
Bet. 41st and 42nd Sts.

Mme. J. F. Willumsen,
Strandogervej 28,
Hellerup (nr. Copenhagen)
Denmark.

Dear Madame Willumsen:-

It is interesting to hear that Mr. Willumsen is now in Madrid and I am sure he will produce some very fine work, for his feeling for Spanish things seemed to me very real.

I am afraid that I cannot hope to sell the Greco for such a price as Mr. Willumsen asks. It would put me into a very bad light to be changing the price. Besides, if we sell a picture for such a large amount we should make a few thousand dollars and the price which Mr. Willumsen now asks for the picture makes it impossible. On the other hand if he decided to sell it for \$25,000. or \$30,000. I should make another effort to dispose of it.

I know several people who are interested in Greco, but I frankly do not believe that this picture is one of his greatest works. It is interesting and very beautiful, but it is of an early period and, therefore, not a characteristic example. I shall be glad to hear from you at any time in regard to this.

Feb. 3, 1913

-2- Mme. J. F. Willumsen.

Then, too, it would be necessary to permit the purchaser to see the picture and I would ask that the picture be shown in America before I could possibly sell it. I am not in a position to say in advance that I shall be able to sell it, but I can give you any number of references of people who have sent me pictures quite as valuable, without any fear whatever. At this very moment I am showing a collection of pictures worth much more than the Greco and the owners have in no instance had any doubt as to my integrity.

As to the miniature. I do not remember having seen it and I am afraid I shall not go any further north this summer than Hamburg or London, as I have some work to do in the southeastern part of Europe.

Thanking you for your good wishes and hoping that we may still be able to dispose of the picture, I remain,

Very truly yours,

Martin Bimbaum
Manager.