



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

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CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
YUSILL SCRIBNER,  
REBEKAH CARMICHAEL,  
JANICE OH  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
(212) 637-2600

**UNITED STATES RETURNS A SECOND PAINTING, EXPROPRIATED  
BY NAZIS, TO THE ESTATE OF ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER,  
DR. MAX STERN**

LEV L. DASSIN, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and PETER J. SMITH, Special Agent-in-Charge of the New York Office of the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"), announced today that Saint Hieronymus, also called "St. Jerome" and "Heiliger Hieronymus," an oil painting subjected by the Nazis to forced dispossession in 1937, will be returned to the estate of its rightful owner, DR. MAX STERN, at a repatriation ceremony held today at the Leo Baeck Institute for the study of the history and culture of German-speaking Jewry. The late 16<sup>th</sup> century oil painting is attributed to Italian artist LUDOVICO CARRACCI (1555-1619).

DR. MAX STERN, a Jewish art dealer in Germany, had been ordered by the Nazi Reich Chamber for the Fine Arts to liquidate his gallery and its inventory in 1937. After losing an appeal of the Reich Chamber's ruling, STERN was forced to consign most of his works of art, including Saint Hieronymus, to the Lempertz Auction House, a Nazi government-approved art purveyor, for a forced sale. The Nazi government also prevented DR. STERN from retrieving the auction proceeds. STERN fled Germany after the forced sale and eventually settled in Canada.

During World War II, many of Lempertz Auction's records were destroyed by bombing, hampering post-war searches to identify and locate the purchasers of STERN's collection. STERN filed a restitutionary claim with the military government in the British zone of occupied Germany, placed advertisements in Canadian Art and Die Weltkunst in 1948 and 1952, respectively, and visited Europe in 1949 to search for his missing artworks. In 1958, he initiated judicial proceedings in Germany, and in 1964, a German Court awarded STERN with damages limited to

profits lost due to the forced sale of his art collection. Saint Hieronymus has also been listed in three separate stolen art registries. STERN died in 1987, leaving any interest in his collection, including Saint Hieronymus, to his estate.

In May 2000, Lempertz Auction House -- the same auction house that led the forced sale of Saint Hieronymus in 1937 -- sold the painting to Manhattan art dealer RICHARD L. FEIGEN, who owns the gallery Richard L. Feigen & Co. When FEIGEN purchased Saint Hieronymus, he inquired about the provenance of the painting, but was not alerted to the circumstances of the 1937 sale.

After reading press reports about the recent repatriation on April 21, 2009, Holocaust Remembrance Day, of "Portrait of a Musician Playing a Bagpipe" to the Stern Estate, FEIGEN determined that Saint Hieronymus was in fact stolen Holocaust art belonging to the Stern Estate. FEIGEN immediately contacted ICE and expressed his wish to return the painting. FEIGEN then entered into a voluntary stipulation, consenting to seizure of Saint Hieronymus, to facilitate its return to the Stern Estate through this Office and ICE without the need for any judicial proceedings.

"On Holocaust Remembrance Day, we had the honor of returning a painting stolen by the Nazis to the estate of Dr. Max Stern. Today, thanks to Richard Feigen's selfless action upon hearing about that event, we have the honor of returning another painting stolen by the Nazis to Dr. Stern's estate. Our Office and ICE are committed to the goal of recovering all surviving works of art stolen by the Nazis," said Acting U.S. Attorney LEV L. DASSIN. "Each repatriation of a work of art is an act of remembrance, a measure of redemption, and a commitment to justice."

"When we returned "the Bagpiper" two weeks ago, we made a plea for art dealers everywhere to return all paintings stolen in the Holocaust," said PETER J. SMITH, Special Agent-in-Charge of the ICE Office of Investigations in New York. "ICE is grateful for the cooperation of art dealer Richard Feigen in the recovery of the Carracci and hope that his leadership will encourage his peers in the trade to take a good look at their own works."

Mr. DASSIN praised the investigative work of ICE in this matter, and its ongoing efforts to find and repatriate

stolen works of art.

Assistant United States Attorneys SHARON COHEN LEVIN and SEETHA RAMACHANDRAN are in charge of the investigation and repatriation.

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