



COLLECTION OF PICTURES OF W.G. COESVELT – CATALOGUE DISPLAYING NINETY ETCHINGS OF OLD MASTER PAINTINGS OWNED BY A DUTCH MERCHANT IN LONDON, INCLUDING THE ALBA MADONNA PURCHASED BY TSAR NICOLAS I

Collection of Pictures, of W. G. Coesvelt, Esq. re of London. London: James Carpenter & Son, 1836. Introduction by Mrs. Jameson. Hardcover. Illustrated. 27 pages & 74 plates. A private catalogue of the collection owned by Dutch merchant William Gordon Coesvelt (d. 1839). The catalogue includes ninety Old Master

paintings, mostly by Italian Renaissance and Guido Reni, Claude Lorrain, Salvatore Rosa, Nicholas Poussin, Giorgione, Ludovico Carracci, Annibale Carracci, Parmigianino, Titian, van Dyck, Tintoretto, Giovanni Bellini, Fra Bartolomeo, Murillo, Raphael, Correggio, Paolo Veronese, Rubens, and Leonardo da Vinci. Each work is listed and illustrated with a large etching by F. Joubert. A brief introduction to the catalogue describes the collection as the result of “more than thirty years’ research” and credits Coesvelt’s periods of residence in Italy and Spain during their times of political upheaval in the early nineteenth century with providing him the opportunity to amass a world-class collection and export works so easily out of those countries.¹

Coesvelt’s paintings, the Italian masters and others not included in this catalogue, have enjoyed impressive provenances over the years and now belong to many of the world’s most significant museum collections. In 1814-5, over two decades before this volume’s publication, Coesvelt sold a large number of Spanish old masters to Russian Tsar Alexander I.² They are now at the Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg, Russia.³ In 1836, the same year as this catalogue, he sold Raphael’s *Alba Madonna* (number 82 in this catalogue) to Tsar Nicolas I. It is now owned by the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C.⁴ Coesvelt sold part of his collection at Christie’s on June 3, 1837, and the remainder was dispersed in a June 13, 1840 Christie’s auction following his death in 1839.

This book in half-bound in red leather and marbled board. Matching marbled end papers. There are gilt-edged pages, gilt lettering, and gilt decoration on the spine – all somewhat rubbed. The front cover is completely separated from the rest of the book. The cover shows some wear, but the pages are in fine condition.

\$725.00

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NOTES:

1. Jameson. "Introduction". In *Collection of Pictures, of W. G. Coesvelt, Esq.re of London*. London: James Carpenter & Son, 1836. iii.
2. "William Gordon Coesvelt (Biographical details)". British Museum website. http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/search_the_collection_database/term_details.aspx?bioId=97081. Accessed Nov. 6, 2014.
3. See a listing at: <http://www.arthermitage.org/Collection-of-William-Coesvelt-Amsterdam.html>
4. "The Alba Madonna" ("Provenance"). National Gallery of Art collection database. <http://www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/Collection/art-object-page.26.html>. Accessed Nov. 6, 2014.

