



PRIVATELY-PRINTED CATALOGUE OF THE ROBERT NAPIER COLLECTION OF WEST SHANDON, DUMBARTONSHIRE

Robinson, John Charles *et al.* *Catalogue of the Works of Art Forming the Collection of Robert Napier, of West Shandon, Dumbartonshire.* London: privately printed, 1865. Hardcover. 326 pages. No illustrations.

The privately-printed, hardcover catalogue of the art and antiques collection of Scottish engineer Robert Napier (1791-1876), featuring paintings by the most significant Renaissance masters. Napier is best-known for his contributions to the steamship industry on Scotland's Clyde River; accordingly, he is often called "the father of Clyde shipbuilding". Napier built steam engines for the East India Company, the British Royal Navy, and shipping entrepreneur Samuel Cunard, founder of the Cunard Line. He was awarded numerous honors, including prominent positions in several World's Fairs. Napier was a great lover of art and accumulated a diverse and extensive collection, which he displayed at his home, West Shandon House, in Dumbartonshire, Scotland. According to his catalogue, compiled primarily by British artist and curator Sir John Charles Robinson (1824-1913), Napier's holdings included furniture, paintings, drawings, sculpture, wood and ivory carvings, gold and silver plate, glass, art objects, enamels, watches and clocks, jewelry, arms and armor, metal ware, porcelain, pottery, and Asian works of art. Among the notable artists represented in this impressive collection are Grimaldi, Sassoferrato, Tinteretto, Titian, Mantegna, Raphael, the Caracci brothers, Veronese, Bronzino, Lucas Cranach, Jacob Ruysdael, Jan Steen, Rembrandt, Albert Cuyp, Rubens, Claude Lorraine, Murillo, Hogarth, and Joshua Reynolds.

Napier's collection was sold at Christie's in London on April 11-19, 1877, the year following his death. A four-part auction catalogue was printed for the sale. Many of the paintings from his collection are now in major museums. The catalogue is hardbound and has a handsome brown binding with gilt decorations and Napier's initials on the front cover. The binding needs repair.

For more about Robert Napier, see <http://www.amostcuriousmurder.com/napier.htm>.

\$400.00