The Other Kress Collection

The Kress Historic Negatives Digitization Project at the National Gallery of Art

Melissa Beck Lemke
Department of Image Collections, National Gallery of Art
Kress Collection installations
IMAGE COLLECTIONS

The library's department of image collections is a study and research center for images of Western art and architecture and is one of the largest of its kind, numbering almost 14 million photographs, slides, negatives, microforms, and digital images. The department serves the Gallery's staff, members of the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, visiting scholars, and qualified researchers.
NGA Image Collections Historic Kress Images
Andrew Mellon and notable examples from his gift to the NGA.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Painting Title</th>
<th>Artist</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tribute to Apollo</td>
<td>Sanzio</td>
<td>Transf. from old.</td>
<td>$50,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judgement of Solomon</td>
<td>Sanzio</td>
<td>Transf. from old.</td>
<td>$50,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madonna and Child</td>
<td>Giovanni Bellini</td>
<td>Florentine, 14th Cent.</td>
<td>$30,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portrait of a Girl as Venus</td>
<td>Domenico Campagnola</td>
<td>On canvas.</td>
<td>$50,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Venus and Cupid</td>
<td>Angelico</td>
<td>Signed &amp; Dated, 1477.</td>
<td>$50,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portrait of a Girl</td>
<td>Giovanni Bellini</td>
<td>Venezzia, 1504.</td>
<td>$50,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portrait of Sleeping Girl</td>
<td>Giovanni Bellini</td>
<td>Venezzia, 1504.</td>
<td>$50,000.00</td>
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</table>

On above eight paintings there is practically no restoration - slight if any.

All the above are from the Collection of Countess Giustiniani, Genoa.
Notable acquisitions by Samuel Kress
Mead Art Museum, Amherst, MA

North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC
S. H. Kress & Co. Store at Fifth Avenue and 39th Street.
New York City
This subject is a rare and typical work of Andrea del Verrocchio in his highest periods, particularly in the field of sculpture, where his painting of "The Baptism", where collaboration also took famous pupil Leonardo da Vinci.

S. Foster
Florence, 15th September 1924.

This terracotta relief, a work of Andrea, a reconstruction of the Holy Eucharist, gives a new revelation about one of the most important Florentine artists of that period, Andrea del Verrocchio. This is the second piece he had a great influence and it was followed and copied, not included the greatest of Maecenas, Leonardo da Vinci, who adopted this architectural construction in the restoration of the chaps, painted some years later. This relief gives a most important contribution to the most famous knowledge of Verrocchio.

Florence, Aug. 1934

Andrea del Verrocchio

April 1435 - 1488

*reposè *bronze, the angel, the angel, the angel, the angel...

Some terracotta, usually of copper or lead, with important art, and both color and design, made by Andrea del Verrocchio. The terracotta is one of the most important works of the Florentine, who was the greatest of the sculptors of that period. The relief shows the influence of Leonardo da Vinci, who adopted this architectural construction in the restoration of the chaps, painted some years later. This relief gives a most important contribution to the most famous knowledge of Andrea del Verrocchio.

Ricardo Long.
A most pleasing Madonna and Child by
Ambrogio Borgognone
MADONNA AND CHILD
By
SENNIS ARTIST, XIV Cent.
LEIPCO MENNI or DONATO MARTINI (Longhi)
ANDREA DI BARTOLO
PERKINS, PIACCO, GUIDA
SIMONE MARTINI
FOLLOWER OF SIMONE MARTINI
Probabily DONATO MARTINI (R.v. Marle)

Andrea di Bartolo

B. Berenson

1937/8, Gallery Archives, NGA

Undated, DLI, NGA

FROM THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
Washington, D.C.

TITLE: Portrait of a Gentleman in Black
ARTIST: Giovanni Battista Moroni, 1520-1573
SCHOOL: Italian

Please Credit: NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
KRESS COLLECTION

N.G. July 1934

1951, DLI, NGA
MR. SAMUEL H. KRESS

ON BEHALF OF THE CITIZENS OF NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
WE WISH TO THANK YOU FOR THE LOAN OF THE COLLECTION
OF ITALIAN PAINTINGS WHICH HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE
CULTURAL BETTERMENT OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WHO
HAVE VISITED THE PARTHENON.

SIGNED
COMMITTEE

[Signatures]

[Stamp]
Objects included in the Kress traveling exhibition

Columbia Museum of Art, SC
Museo de Arte de Ponce, PR
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
Howard Univ. Gallery, Washington, DC
Portland Art Museum, OR
Arkansas Art Center, Little Rock, AR
President Roosevelt at the podium during the dedication of the National Gallery of Art, March 17, 1941. Samuel Kress is circled.
Among the post-opening Kress gifts to the NGA
Notable Rush Kress acquisitions
The Great
KRESS GIVEAWAY

Dime store founder dispenses $75 million art collection to U.S. museums

For half a century the name of S. H. Kress has been a familiar, brassy sight on the facades of five and ten cent stores. Today, in chaste letters, it is becoming a familiarity on other walls—in the galleries of the nation's art museums. This has come about through one of the greatest art giveaways in modern history. For more than a decade the Kress Foundation has been dispensing to museums works selected from the vast collection of European art which Samuel Kress, founder of the dime store chain, spent years and millions of dollars acquiring (p. 159). To date, 35 museums have benefited from Kress donations and still others are earmarked for future contributions.

This wholesale dispersal of art got off to a huge start in 1939 when Kress gave the National Gallery, soon to open in Washington, 375 paintings and 18 sculptures by Italian masters. Later he contributed some 100 additional works. In 1945, at 82, Samuel Kress suffered a stroke and his brother Rush was put in charge of the collection. Faced with the staggering accumulation of art, Rush decided to extend his brother's bounty to other art institutions around the country. Big museums and small alike were singled out for donations; the only requirement was that they be in states where there were Kress stores. Today the Kress Foundation is busily documenting, restoring and framing the 600 paintings that remain. By 1960 it hopes to have distributed the entire $75 million collection.
Kress Repositories
(Kress Foundation website)
Stephen Pichetto (at the Metropolitan Museum)

Mario Modestini  
(Painting now in Seattle Art Museum, WA)
Huckleberry Hill (Kress conservation studios)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Photographer</th>
<th>Type of Negative</th>
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<td>M. Keyes</td>
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<td>Cuba</td>
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Foto Reali (1910s-1920s)
Vittorio Jacquier (1930-1)
Murray Keyes
(c.1928- early 1940s)
Henry Beville
(1940s)

Chazen Museum of Art, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
Louis Werner  (lantern slides, early 1940s)
Siegfried Colten
(1940s-50s)
Paul Kiehart

(painting now in Univ. of Arizona Museum of Art, Tucson, AZ)
New Orleans Museum of Art

Paul Kiehart (1950s)
NGA (1950s)
Bullaty-Lomeo (1960s)

Smart Art Museum, Univ. of Chicago
Added from DLI photo archive

Photographer: Anderson

Samek Art Gallery, Bucknell Univ.

Photographer: Alinari
Links pertaining to the Historic Kress Images Project:

Library.nga.gov (choose Image Collections)
Oculus.nga.gov (choose Kress Collection Historic Images)

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