

Portrait of the Astronomer Roger Long

Thomas Worlidge



Description

Thomas Worlidge (1700-1766)
Portrait of the Astronomer Roger Long

With collector's mark lower left (Lugt no.474) and inscribed verso: 3D L1
Black chalk on laid paper
Sheet 29.3 by 21.9 cm., 11 ½ by 8 ½ in.

Provenance:

Charles Paul Jean-Baptiste de Bourgevin Vialart, Comte de Saint-Morys (1743-1795);
By descent to his son, Charles Etienne de Bourgevin Vialart (1772-1817), his sale, Henry Phillips, 37 New Bond Street, London, 13th June 1797, lot 1 (part), bt. Rowlandson for 4 shillings;
Thomas Rowlandson (1756-1827)

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Literature:

Julian Brooks and Casey Lee, 'Transcriptions of Auctioneer Henry Phillips's Annotated Catalogues of the 1797 and 1799 Sales of the Drawings of the Comte de Carrière', *Master Drawings*, online article, 2021, ill. p.18

This collector's mark on this drawing has only recently be identified (see Julian Brooks and Casey Lee, 'The Identification of the "Pseudo-Crozat" Mark (Lugt 474): Saint-Morys and Carrière', *Master Drawings*, vol. 59, no.3, Fall 2021, pp.391-409). The Comte de Saint-Morys fled the French Revolution in September 1790 and remained in London until his death in August 1795. During this time, he put together a collection which was sold by his son at auction in 1797. The inscription on the reverse of this drawing, 'D3 L1', tells us that it was included in lot 1 on day 3 of the sale. An annotated version of the catalogue in the Wallace Collection tells us that this drawing was bought by the artist Thomas Rowlandson.