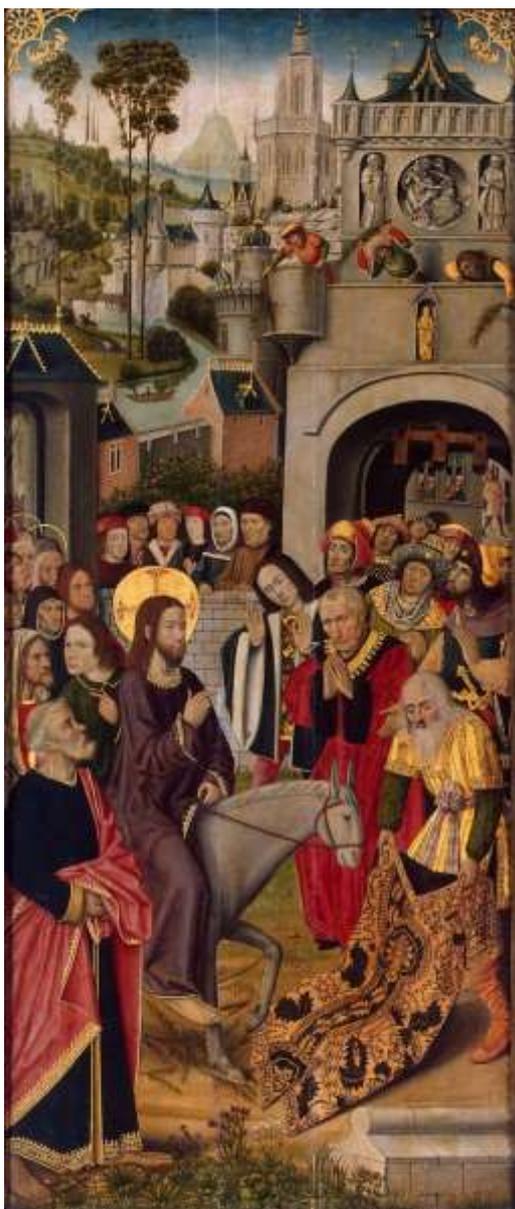


The State Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg

Catalogue of the Collection of French Painting of the Fifteenth, Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries

by Natalia Serebriannaia



Master of the Thuizon Altar, second half of the fifteenth century
The Entry of Christ into Jerusalem

A publishing project by the Hermitage Foundation UK 2016

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Following on from the success of past scholarly publishing projects, it is hoped to publish the English translation of the latest volume of the Hermitage's catalogue of its European paintings.

Natalia Serebriannaia is curator of French painting of the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. This important collection has never before been published in full and the catalogue would thus make a major contribution to the academic study of French painting and of the holdings of the Hermitage Museum.

Nearly 260 paintings will be included, from early works such as a fifteenth-century *Entry of Christ into Jerusalem* by the Master of the Thuizon Altar right through to the end of the seventeenth century. There are some 246 pictures from the main (historic) collection with the addition of 10 from the Special Collection (items removed from Germany at the end of the Second World War).

If some of the paintings – notably Poussin's *Landscape with Polyphemus* and *Tancred and Erminia*, and Claude Lorrain's series *The Four Times of the Day* – have been repeatedly published, many more remain little known or entirely unknown. The paintings from the Special Collection have not previously been published in any form and in an important innovation for Hermitage catalogues, the author plans to include several miniatures from the Hermitage's small but precious (and unpublished) collection of portrait miniatures.

The collection of French painting of the fifteenth to seventeenth centuries presents a cross-section of different genres: Biblical, mythological, historical, genre, landscape and still life and, as is to be expected with French art of this period, lots of portraits.

It also presents pictures that came from some of the most famous international and Russian collections. There are works commissioned by Poussin's friend and patron Paul Chantelou; pictures that were owned by celebrated collectors such as Pierre Crozat and Jean de Jullienne in Paris, Sir Robert Walpole of Houghton Hall, Count Heinrich von Brühl of Dresden and the (infamous) 'Duchess of Kingston'. There are paintings from the founding collection of the Hermitage picture gallery, that acquired in 1764 from Johann Ernst Gotzkowsky. In the early nineteenth century came paintings from the collection of Empress Josephine at Malmaison.

As for Russian collections, some came as gifts from Ivan Shuvalov to the Academy of Arts in the eighteenth century, others belonged to Catherine the Great's favourites Grigory Orlov and Grigory Potemkin; there are pictures from the noble family collections of the Princes Yusupov and Counts Stroganov, from Count Kushelev-Bezborodko and Pyotr Semenov-Tyan-Shansky, both of whom specifically wanted their collections to be accessible to the public after their death. There are paintings that once belonged to Agathon Fabergé, son of the jeweller Carl Fabergé. The most recent acquisition came from the art market in 2010.

Print run: 1000, of which 100 will be given to The Hermitage Museum.

Funding is sought to cover

1) the cost of scholarly editing (in collaboration with the author in St Petersburg) and translation, including associated administration costs, plus some payment for supplementary image rights

2) printing costs

The Hermitage and its Collection: The Green Catalogue Series

Nearly ten years ago the Hermitage started producing full scholarly catalogues of different parts of its varied collections. The Hermitage Foundation UK – then the Hermitage Friends – was involved since the very beginning, proposing publication in English of the first ever ‘green catalogue’, as they are known, even before it had appeared in Russian. That catalogue, of the seventeenth-century Flemish paintings, set in train a publishing project with British support that has produced a number of important volumes. The Hermitage Foundation UK has provided different degrees of support for most of them.

Two volumes of European paintings have appeared in English:*

- Natalya Gritsay, Natalya Babina, *State Hermitage Museum Catalogue. Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-century Flemish Painting*, New Haven–London: Yale University Press, 2008
Publication of this volume was made possible by a grant from the Dr. Mortimer and Theresa Sackler Foundation and was the very first project run under the auspices of the Hermitage Foundation UK
- Elizaveta Renne, *State Hermitage Museum Catalogue. British Painting*, New Haven–London: Yale University Press, 2011
This volume was published entirely through the support of the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, London

Two volumes covering the Hermitage’s unique collection of British gems and silver have also appeared in English, supported by the Paul Mellon Centre (but with the launch parties hosted by the Hermitage Foundation UK):

- Julia Kagan, *Gem Engraving in Britain From Antiquity to the Present with a catalogue of the British engraved gems in the State Hermitage Museum*, Oxford: The Beazley Archive and Archaeopress, in the series *Studies in Gems and Jewellery*, 2010
This volume was initiated by Archaeopress and financed by the Beazley Archive and a grant from the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, London
- Marina Lopato, *British Silver 1572–1700 in The State Hermitage Museum*, London – New Haven: Yale University Press, 2015
This volume was published entirely through the support of the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, London

The Hermitage Foundation UK was responsible for initiating and finding funding for

- Adel Adamova, *Persian Manuscripts, Paintings and Drawings from the 15th to the 20th Century in the Hermitage Collection*, London: Azimuth, 2012
- the catalogue of Persian bronzes in the Hermitage (forthcoming)

The Hermitage Foundation UK has funded translation costs for two volumes of the *Corpus Vasorum Antiquorum*, an internationally-renowned project to publish all known Greek vases

- Anna Petrakova, *Attic Red-figure and Bilingual Drinking-cups, part II*, Rome: L’Erma di Bretschneider, 2016 (forthcoming)
- Anastasia Bukina, *Corinthian Vases*, Rome: L’Erma di Bretschneider, 2016 (forthcoming)



One of the most published of all French seventeenth-century pictures in the Hermitage,
Nicolas Poussin’s *Landscape with Polyphemus*

* Catalogues of Italian paintings and sculptures have appeared in recent years in Italian, the catalogue of Spanish paintings was published in Spanish.

The Hermitage owns the only accepted painting by Jacques Bellange (c. 1575–1616)



Among the earliest acquisitions from Johann Ernst Gotzkowsky in 1764 was *Hercules with the Gods on Olympus* attributed to François Perrier (1590–1650)



The most recent acquisition is a still life by Meffrein Conte (c. 1630–1705) purchased in 2010



The acquisition of the collection formed by Sir Robert Walpole brought the Hermitage *Moses Striking Water from the Rock* by Nicolas Poussin (1594–1665)



and *The Massacre of the Innocents* by Sebastien Bourdon (1616–71)



The collection of François Tronchin of Geneva was the source of *Esther before Ahasuerus* by Valentin Lefebvre (1637–77)



The acquisition of the Crozat collection brought the Hermitage *A Visit to Grandmother* by the Le Nain brothers (first half of the seventeenth century)



and a fine group portrait by Nicolas de Largillière (1656–1746)



From the collection of the Empress Josephine at Malmaison came *The Times of the Day* by Claude Lorrain (1600–82)

