

Generalkonsulat
der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
Consulate General
of the Federal Republic of Germany

460 Park Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10022
Tel.: (212) 940-9200
Telegrammadresse Consugerma
Telex 127615

Ku 600.00

May 24, 1986 Ko/SN

Ms. Noel Baron
[REDACTED]
La Jolla, CA 92037

Dear Madam:

Mr. Charles Koczka from the United States Costums Service in New York has contacted this Consulate General. Unfortunately we are unable to get in touch with him, so I take the liberty writing to you directly.

Mr. Koczka told us that you would like to have a copy of the altar painting of "Matthäus mit dem Engel" painted by Caravaggio in 1602, which has been burned in 1945 in the Kaiser-Friedrich-Museum.

In the meantime we have contacted the Gallery in Berlin. They wrote us that they only have a black and white copy (24 x 30 cm) from a negative before the war.

If you would like to have a copy of this please let us know that we can get in touch with the photographer. For this work there will be a fee involved. For the exact price we would have to write to Germany again.

Looking forward to hear from you, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

B. Kommander
Brunhilde Kommander
Vice Consul

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460 Park Avenue
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16.06.1986 Ko/SN

Ms. Noel Baron

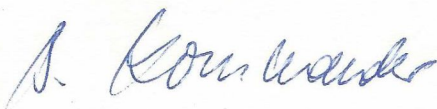
La Jolla, CA 92037

Dear Madam:

With my letter of May 24, 1986 I had asked you, if you are interested in obtaining a copy of the altar painting of "Matthäus mit dem Engel" painted by Caravaggio in 1602.

I would appreciate your comments on this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Brunhilde Kommander
Vice Consul

June 17, 1986

Dear Brunhilde Kommander,

Thank you for your letter of May 24th, copy enclosed, informing me of the picture you have, of the painting, "St. Matthew with the Angel", which was destroyed at the Kaiser-Friedrich Museum during the war.

My interest in the painting has a very special purpose. I would like to undertake the project of reproducing the painting for the Museum. I am planning to re-create the masterpiece in oil exactly as Caravaggio painted it in 1602. Please find enclosed some photos of other Caravaggio's I have reproduced. I have been painting great masterpieces of art for over 18 years. I am working with the Italian Government to replace another Caravaggio, which was stolen in 1969 from a church, in Palermo, Sicily.

Please understand this would be a gift to the German government and museum. If you are interested please call me at (619) 453-5748 in San Diego, Calif., the best time to reach me directly is, 7:00am - 9:00am Calif. time or 5:00 - 7:00 pm Calif. time, or please write to me at: NOEL BARON

LA JOLLA, CALIF 92037

Sincerely,

NOEL BARON

P.S. In any event I would still like to have the picture you have of the painting. Thank you.

Generalkonsulat
der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
Consulate General
of the Federal Republic of Germany
New York

Ku 600.00

460 Park Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022
Tel. 212-940-9239

July 3, 1986

Mrs. Noel Baron
[REDACTED]
La Jolla, CA 92037

Dear Madam:

Thank you very much for your letter of June 17, 1986.

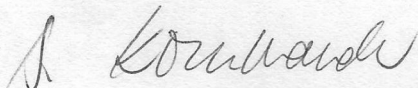
I think the best procedure is that you get in contact with the

Gemäldegalerie SMPK
Arnimallee 23
D-1000 Berlin 33
Tel.: (030) 8 30 11
Dr. Erich Schleier

They will be able to tell you the price for the photograph and also if they would like to acquire a re-production of the altar painting.

Enclosed please find your pictures of other Caravaggios you have re-produced.

Sincerely Yours,



Brunhilde Kommander
Vice Consul

July 7, 1986

Dear Dr. Schleier,

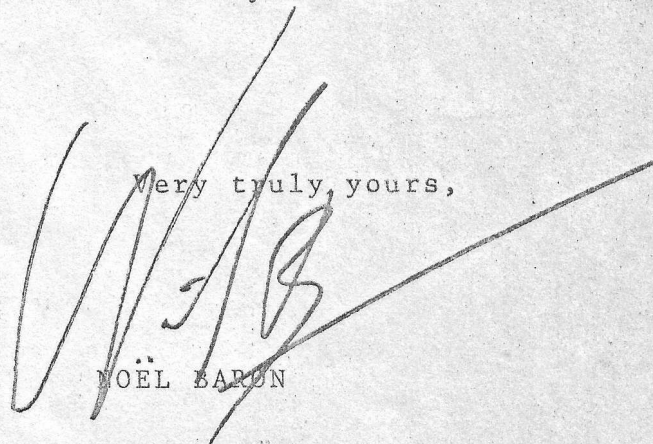
My name is Noël Baron, and the German Consulate in New York City, New York gave me your name as the man to contact.

I would very much like to undertake a very special project for the German Government, and the Kaiser-Friedrich Museum in Berlin. Over the past 18 years I have re-created the works of the great masters, and my favorite painter is Caravaggio. I have done these paintings for my own private collection, but now would like to see great masterpieces of art find their way back to their owners. Many paintings sadly have been stolen or destroyed, and I would like to give back to the world of art its great masterpieces the only way I can, by painting the pieces myself. Therefore I would like to re-create "St. Matthew and the Angel" as a gift to the Kaiser-Friedrich Museum. I would need to have a photograph of the painting, the Consulate said that you have one in black and white, that would be the most important part. If you have any idea as to the color of the Saint's robe it would help me greatly. I have painted so many of Caravaggio's pictures that I feel I can accurately re-create the colors from a black and white print.

Please let me know if you would like to have this done, and if your people in Germany are interested in my offer. I would be very honored to re-create this masterpiece for the Kaiser-Friedrich museum. Whatever the response I would still like to have a photo of the original painting. Please find 2 photos enclosed of my work. I am presently working with the Italians to replace another missing Caravaggio, "THE NATIVITY" which was stolen in 1969 and never recovered.

Thank you for your time and I hope to hear from you soon.
Please find my address below.

Very truly yours,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'N. Baron', is written over the typed name and extends across the right side of the page.

NOËL BARON

MISS NOËL BARON

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA

92037

U.S.A.



Gemäldegalerie SMPK, Arnimallee 23, D-1000 Berlin 33

July 15, 1986

Miss Noel Baron

La Jolla, CA 92037
USA


Dear Miss Baron,

thank you very much for your letter of July 7 and for informing us of your fascinating activity to copy or re-create works by Caravaggio. In the case of the second St. Matthew and the Deposition in the Vatican you still had the originals for ^{your} orientation, and in case of the Nativity there are colour plates in the more recent monographs. But in the case of the first St. Matthew, which was destroyed in 1945, I don't know, off-hand, of any colour print published in a book before 1945. I enclose with our compliments a black-and-white photo. This is only a repro-photo, taken from an old glas-negative, which is broken. The catalogues do not mention anything about colour. The pre-war archive of negatives is preserved in the Gemäldegalerie in East-Berlin. So far I have only been aware of black-and-white negatives. Whether they do have any Ektachromes from before the war, I do not know. If so, they would probably be totally discoloured. But you could write to

Dr. Irene Geismeyer
Direktor der Gemäldegalerie
Staatliche Museen zu Berlin
Bodestrasse 1-3
DDR-1020 Berlin
German Democratic Republic

As to your interesting and generous offer to re-create the lost St. Matthew as a gift to the Berlin Museum, I am not in a position to give you an official answer. I shall pass your letter on to the Director of the Gemäldegalerie, Professor Henning Bock, who is currently on vacation and who will certainly write to you after his return. In the meantime I am with best wishes

Yours sincerely,


Dr. Erich Schleier


August 1, 1986

Dear Dr. Geismeyer,

My name is Noël Baron, and I am doing some research on the Baroque painter, Caravaggio. I was given your name by Dr. Erich Schleier, as the person who may be able to assist me in finding information about a Caravaggio painting entitled, "St. Matthew with the Angel", which was destroyed at the Kaiser-Freidrich Museum, during World War II. I am trying to find a color picture of the painting, if one exists. If one does not exist, maybe you could help me by describing the colors of St. Matthews robes, the color of the angel's hair and so on. Again, any color picture, no matter how faded or damaged, would be greatly appreciated.

I would like to thank you for your time, and any help you may be able to offer, concerning this great masterpiece of art.

Sincerely,



NOËL BARON

MISS NOËL BARON

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA

92037 U.S.A.



Staatliche Museen zu Berlin · DDR-102 Berlin, Bodestr. 1-3

Gemäldegalerie

Fräulein
Noël B a r o n

La Jolla, California
92037 U.S.A.

Ihre Zeichen

Ihre Nachricht vom 1.8.1986 Unsere Zeichen 331/596/Nü Datum 19.8.86

Sehr geehrtes Fräulein Baron,

Ihre Frage nach einer Farbreproduktion von Caravaggios "Hl. Matthäus" müssen wir leider negativ beantworten: Das Gemälde ist niemals in Farbe aufgenommen worden.

Glücklicherweise existiert eine Farbbeschreibung bei

Hans Posse- Die Gemäldegalerie des Kaiser-Friedrich-Museums
Die Romanischen Länder
Berlin 1909
S. 207:

"Vor schwarzem Grund fällt helles Sonnenlicht auf die Gruppe, die dunkelbraune Schlagschatten auf den ockergelbbraunen Boden wirft, und modelliert die Körper hart und klar, auch in dem warmen Hell-dunkel. Hellrot in dem über gelbbraunen Stuhl fallenden Mantel, Dunkelolivgrün im Rocke des Apostels, die verbrannte ockergelblich-rote Fleischfarbe, im Gegensatz zu reinem Weiß im Buch, in den Flügeln und, mit Grau getönt, in dem beschatteten Gewande des Engels steigern die plastische Wirkung der Gestalt zu einem förmlichen Herauspringen aus dem Bilde."

Leider wird im Zitat Ihre Frage nach der Haarfarbe des Engels nicht beantwortet, trotzdem werden Sie sicher eine Vorstellung von der ursprünglichen Wirkung des Bildes erhalten .

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

Hannelore Nitzmann
(H. Nitzmann)
Kustos

The Painting was never done in color. But here is a color description from the Gemäldegalerie.

Before a dark ground, light sunlight falls over the group with dark brown shadows on the ocker yellow brown floor and models the bodies hard and clear, also in the warm light dark.

Light red over the yellow brown chair falling coat, dark olive green in the robe of the Apostels, the burned ocker yellow red skin color instead to the pure white in the book.

The wings are tinted with grey. In the shadowed Garment of the angel, the plastic effect of the form falls out of the Picture.

Sorry, the hair color of the angel can not be answered.

Dear Miss Baron,

Unfortunately we must give a negative answer to your question regarding the color reproduction of Caravaggio's "St. Matthew." The painting is not reproduced in color.

There is luckily a color description by Hans Posse

"Before a dark background bright starlight falls on the group, The dark brown cast shadows are projected on the yellow brown earth (Ocker is ocher) gelb is yellow)

and models the bodies hard and clear, but also in warming half-light.

The bright red mantel falls over the yellow brown stool (chair), the dark olive green in the apostles cloaks, the burnt ocheryellowish red flesh tones in contrast to pure white of the Book and wings, with gray tinted, in the shaded garments of the angels increase (heighten) the relief effect of the figure (form) for a definite (true) movement out of the picture.

unfortunately the quotation
does not answer your
question about the hair
color of the angels, nevertheless
you will obtain certainly a
conception of the original
impression of the picture.









Staatliche Museen Preußischer Kulturbesitz
Gemäldegalerie

1 Berlin 33 - Dohlem, Arnimallee 23/27

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REPRODUKTION
nur mit Genehmigung der Gemäldegalerie

Kat. Nr.: 365 FR

Caravaggio

Martinus und Anna