

KOETSER GALLERY LTD.

SWITZERLAND

AGENTS & DEALERS IN FINE PAINTINGS

TALSTRASSE 37
CH-8001 ZÜRICH
SWITZERLAND

TEL +41 44 211 52 40
FAX +41 44 211 56 69
info@koetsergallery.com
www.koetsergallery.com

Nicolaes BERCHEM

Haarlem 1621/1622 – 1683 Amsterdam

A Winter Landscape with Peasants gathering Firewood

Oil on Panel, 27.6 x 39.1 cm

Signed and dated lower right: 1658



Provenance: Private Collection Lord Viscount Middleton, 1755;
Private Collection D.P. Sellar, London;
His sale, Galerie Georges Petit, Paris, 6 June 1889, no. 1;
Sold to Colnaghi for 1000 francs;
Private Collection, Amsterdam, The Netherlands ca. 19th and early 20th
centuries;
By descent to the present owner;
Private Collection, Dallas, USA.

Literature: J. Smith, *A Catalogue Raisonné of the Works of the Most Eminent Dutch, Flemish and French Painters*, London, 1834, no. 201;
H. Mireur, *Dictionnaire des Ventes d'Art faites en France et à l'étranger pendant les XVIIIème & XIXème siècles*, Paris, 1911, p.199 ("Les Bûcherons");
C. Hofstede de Groot, *Beschreibendes und kritisches Verzeichnis der Werke des hervorragendsten holländischen Maler des XVII. Jahrhunderts*, Cambridge 1976, no. 815.

Nicolaes Berchem was a highly esteemed and prolific golden age painter of pastoral landscapes, populated with mythological or biblical figures painted under the influence of Pieter van Laer, Jan Both, Asselijn and Weenix.

He was a member of the second generation of "Dutch Italianate landscape" painters. These were artists who travelled to Italy, or aspired to, in order to soak up the romanticism of the country, bringing home sketchbooks full of drawings of classical ruins and pastoral imagery. His paintings, were in great demand, as were his etchings and drawings. His landscapes, painted in the Italian style of idealized rural scenes, with hills, mountains, cliffs and trees in a golden dawn are sought after. Berchem collaborated with contemporary artists such as Allaert van Everdingen, Gerrit Dou and Meindert Hobbema.

KOETSER GALLERY LTD.

SWITZERLAND

AGENTS & DEALERS IN FINE PAINTINGS

TALSTRASSE 37
CH-8001 ZÜRICH
SWITZERLAND

TEL +41 44 211 52 40
FAX +41 44 211 56 69
info@koetsergallery.com
www.koetsergallery.com

Born in Haarlem, he was apprenticed to his father, the well-known still-life painter, Pieter Claesz and to the painters Jan van Goyen, Pieter de Grebber, Jan Baptist Weenix, Jan Wils and Claesz Cornelisz. Moeyaert.

Around 1650 he travelled to Westphalia with Jacob van Ruisdael. It is thought that Berchem may have travelled to Italy after this trip and before he moved to Amsterdam, he is not clearly documented in the Netherlands between 1650 and 1656. In 1661-1670 he is registered in Amsterdam and in 1670 he moved back to Haarlem, but was living back in Amsterdam by 1677, where he died in 1683. He was a popular teacher and his pupils were amongst others Karel Dujardin, Pieter de Hooch, Dirk Maas and Jacob Ochtervelt.

Only a few paintings depicting the Winter season are known. A similar work by the artist in size and subject, *Winter Landscape with lime kiln*, is in the Staatliche Kunsthalle in Karlsruhe fig.1. (inv./cat. No. 297).

As stated in The New York Herald from the 15th October 1897, Mr D. P. Sellar was a well-known City merchant who “has a collection of pictures, about 200, which he was desirous of presenting to the City of London. The pictures were by old Dutch, Italian and English Masters”. This was 8 years after the sale organised in Paris for part of his collection, proving how important was this collector.

The painting was engraved by Th. Major with the title “Winter Occupation” and also by Jorma with the Title “Le Soir de la Saison”, from a picture then in the collection of Lord Viscount Middleton, 1755 (cf. J. Smith, *op. cit. supra*, and C. Hofstede de Groot, *Op. cit. supra*).



Fig. 1.