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Archives of American Art

Jacques Seligmann & Co. records, General Correspondence: Cassel van Doorn, Baron, 1941-1943

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COPY

Baron Cassel van Doorn
18 Engle Street
Tenafly, New Jersey

September 7th, 1943

No. 3513 A Gothic Tapestry, French work likely of Tourney of the XVth Century, most probably woven around 1450.

"A YOUNG PRINCE WITH TWO LADIES"

A young prince, wearing a brocaded jacket with a loosely knotted belt, plain hose and soft, high boots, stands before a portico. He wears a broad-brimmed hat with a crown of fleur-de-lys. Besides him is a lady wearing the high-waisted gown of the period, and a turban ornamented with a long tail, and on the porch to the left is another lady wearing a hennin. In the background is a page with a peaked hat.

In addition to smaller restoration, the tapestry bears two important repairs; one being the column to the left; the other being in the lower part - less important on the right than on the left side.

According to the study on this tapestry by Dr. Phyllis Ackerman (a leading authority on textiles and author of basic books), the scroll design which can be read on the edge of the Prince's jacket bears the name of the designer of the cartoon of the tapestry, QIN...

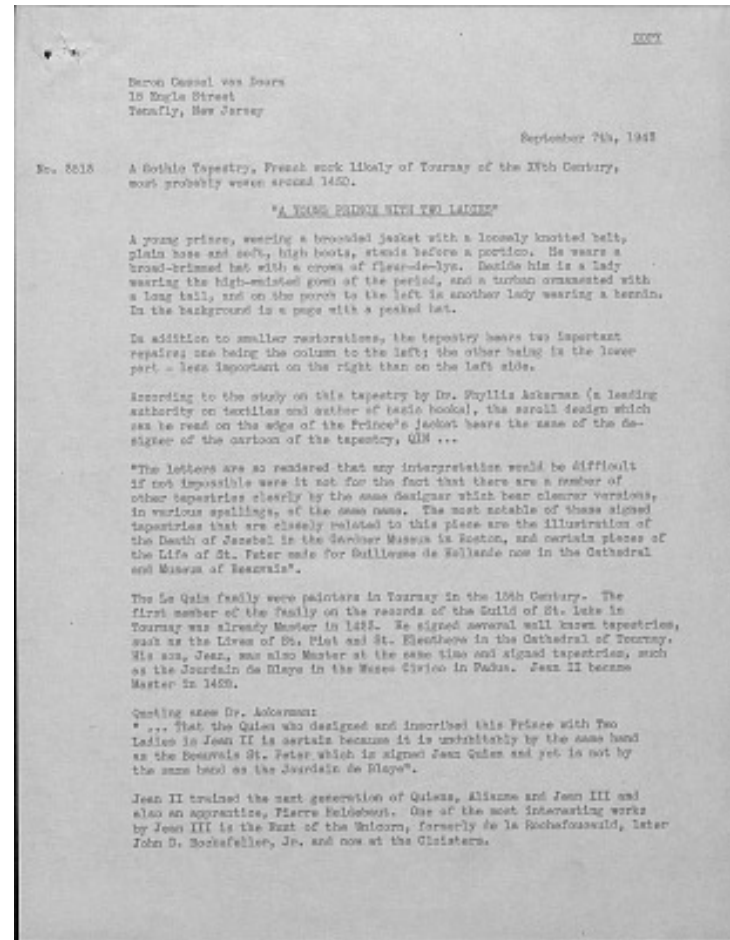
"The letters are so rendered that any interpretations would be difficult if not impossible were it not for the fact that there are a number of other tapestries clearly by the same designer which bear clearer versions, in various spellings, of the same name. The most notable of these signed tapestries that are closely related to this piece are the illustration of the Death of Jezebel in the Gardner Museum in Boston, and certain pieces of the Life of St. Peter made for Guillaume de Hollande now in the Cathedral and Museum of Beauvais".

The Le Quin family were painters in Tourney in the 15th Century. The first member of the family on the records of the Guild of St. Luke in Tourney was already Master in 1423. He signed several will known tapestries, such as the Lives of St. Piat and St. Eleuthere in the Cathedral of Tourney. his son, Jean, was also Master at the same time and signed tapestries, such as the Jourdain de Blays in the Museo Civico in Padus. Jean II became Master in 1428.

Quoting Dr. Ackerman:

"...That the Quien who designed and inscribed this Prince with Two Ladies is Jean II is certain because it is undoubtedly by the same hand as the Beauvais St. Peter which is signed Jean Quien and yet is not by the same hand as the Jourdain de Blaye".

Jean II trained the next generation of Quiens, Aliaume and Jean III and also an apprentice, Pierre Heldebaut. One of the most interesting works by Jean III is the Hunt of the Unicorn, formerly de la Rochefoucauld, later John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and now at the Cloisters.



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