

March 26, 1971

Professor Maurizio Marini
91, Viale Eritrea
001199 Rome
Italy

Dear Professor Marini:

Thank you for your recent letter to Mr. Rich, which came to my attention as he retired last year.

I am very interested in your attribution for our painting, "The Vision of St. Jerome", and obviously I would be very pleased if an attribution to Caravaggio could be authentically established. I, myself, have some reservations.

Dr. Hermann Voss wrote Mr. Rich March 16, 1960. I quote from his letter:

"I received today the photograph of your St. Jerome and find the picture most striking, so striking, indeed, that the name of Caravaggio does not seem too high for it. Of course, the painting would in this case belong to the Maltese-Sicilian period of his life, and the idea that it could be the canvas mentioned by Bellori seems to be very obvious. Unfortunately, I do not know the original, itself, and therefore, would not dare to give a definite opinion on its authenticity..... What is puzzling is the size which seems to be one meter only, that is to say much smaller than the well-known St. Jerome in the Malta Cathedral. This fact, however, could be explained by assuming that the canvas was painted for a private collector, not for a church (which would seem quite a reasonable explanation)."

Dr. Voss's opinions were made from a black-and-white photograph. I will ask our Curatorial Department to send you a color transparency of "The Vision of St. Jerome", as I note the earlier one was stolen.

Again, I look forward to seeing your article in print.

Sincerely,

Richard Stuart Teitz
Director

mdr