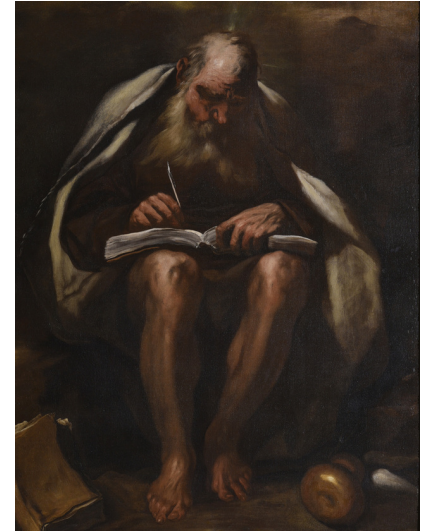




Saint Ephrem the Syrian

Artist	Luca Giordano Naples, 1634 - Naples, 1703
Material	canvas
Technique	oil
Sizes	magasság: 120 cm szélesség: 93 cm
Inventory No.	55.287



Description

Against a dark background sits the grey-bearded hermit, with an open book on his knees; on the ground to the right lies a book, and to the left a copper vessel. The composition closely follows the sheet depicting Saint Ephrem in the series *Sylva anachoretica Aegypti et Palestinae*, engraved by Boetius Bolswert after a painting by Adam Bloemaert in 1612, as Pál Cséfalvay observed.

The work is by Luca Giordano, the school-forming master of mature Neapolitan Baroque painting. It demonstrates how the young master, inspired by Caravaggism and by the painting of Ribera — and later active in Florence, Venice, and, at the end of his life, Madrid — made use of models taken from northern engravers. The naturalistic rendering of the body, hair, and beard, a legacy of Ribera, is here combined with the radiant, golden light he encountered in Venetian painting. Together with its pendant, *Saint Macarius of Egypt*, the painting can be identified in the 1715 inventory of the Neapolitan collection of Giacomo Capece Zurlo: “two paintings, measuring 6 and 3, painted by Luca Giordano” (Ruotolo 1973, p. 150: due quadri, di misura 6 e 3, pittura di Luca Giordano).

Provenance

San Marco collection

Restoration

Varga Dezső

Exhibitions

- 2015 Sankt Pölten, Diözesanmuseum, Meisterwerke aus dem Keresztény Múzeum

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