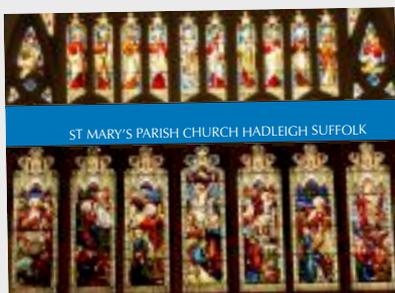


RENEWAL NEWS

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PRESS RELEASE

18th February 2019

A painting thought to be by Canaletto for two centuries, is now revealed to be by his great rival **Michele Marieschi** (Venice 1710-43)

Rival revealed after two centuries

For over two hundred years three paintings hanging on the walls of the The Deanery at Hadleigh in Suffolk were believed to be by Canaletto. The Very Reverend Thomas Tanner the incumbent between 1745 and 1789 was an influential man, married to the daughter of Archbishop Potter, he commissioned the young Gainsborough to paint St. Mary's his parish church early in his time at Hadleigh.

It is less certain how he acquired three Italian paintings that were by repute given to him on a visit by Canaletto to The Deanery in 1749/50. A century later in 1857 curate Hugh Pigot delivered his paper titled Hadleigh. *The Town; The Church; And the Great Men who have Born in or Connected with the Parish* to the The Suffolk Archaeological Institute describing them thus *"over the doorwaysare two paintings representing Italian views; and over the fireplace in the dining room, is a view in Venice.....these are said to be the production of Canaletti.....in 1749 he visited England....and tradition assertshe was a guest of the then rector Dr Tanner, and painted these pictures for him". In the guide book compiled by Dean Francis Carter the incumbent from 1911-28, he states that "only the large dining room painting is by Canaletto"*

In 1956 disappointment in the parish was again palpable when the Canaletto scholar Dr W. G. Constable in the course of his research saw the Venetian painting in the dining room and declared that it was not by Canaletto, but one of his school and worth between £100-150.

Over 50 years later in 2015 during a routine insurance appraisal it caught the eye of valuer James Glennie who contacted the present expert Charles Beddington who after inspection confirmed it to be by Canaletto's great rival Michele Marieschi (Venice 1710-43). Marieschi's career like Canaletto's had started with him painting scenery for fairs, but he soon gained notoriety for his expansive Venetian views, probably helped by marrying the daughter of the successful picture dealer Domenico Fontana. His paintings were popular with those on the grand tour, being less expensive than Canaletto's, Henry Howard 4th Earl of Carlisle bought eighteen for Castle Howard although they are now dispersed. Such was Canaletto's fame that many paintings of Venice were presumed to be by, or passed off as being by him, which may well answer the question of how Dr Thomas Tanner acquired his Venetian picture, rather than from a visit to Suffolk by Canaletto.

After much consideration about the legal ownership of the painting and the urgent need for funds for the fabric of St Mary's church and the famous Deanery Tower, the Hadleigh PCC have consigned it for sale through Charles Beddington, who will exhibit it alongside works by Canaletto and his nephew Bernardo Bellotto at The European Fine Art Fair (TEFAF) in Maastricht (15th -24th March).



Photo: Matthew Hollow

The Grand Canal with San Simeone Piccolo and the Scalzi, c.1742

(The painting and its gilt frame have been expertly restored prior to the sale)