

THE BURLINGTON MAGAZINE

14-16 DUKE'S ROAD, LONDON WC1H 9SZ | TEL: +44 (0)20-7388 1228 | FAX: +44 (0)20-7388 1229
e-mail: burlington@burlington.org.uk

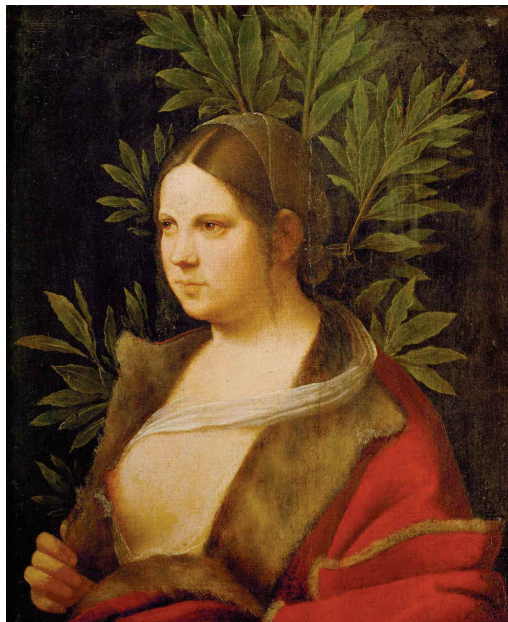
The journal of record for new discoveries and attributions in art

P R E S S R E L E A S E

June 2011

A rare document on Giorgione discovered by Renata Segre is published in the June issue of The Burlington Magazine

A NEWLY DISCOVERED DOCUMENT CASTS LIGHT ON THE LIFE OF GIORGIONE (1477/78-1510). LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT THE LATE-RENAISSANCE GENIUS OF VENICE AND ONLY A HANDFUL OF WORKS ARE UNDISPUTED AS AUTHENTIC.



Portrait of a young woman, by Giorgione. 1506. Canvas, 41 by 33.5 cm. (Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna).

(The fur-lined robe mentioned in the inventory is possibly the one painted here).

Giorgio Vasari, the famous sixteenth-century painter and chronicler of Renaissance artists, stated in his *Vite* that Giorgione came from the small town of Castelfranco, in the Veneto, inland from Venice. Stylistic evidence suggests that he served his apprenticeship under Giovanni Bellini in Venice where he settled and made his name. Controversy has surrounded the attribution of his paintings for centuries. Only a handful of works are widely regarded as by him. What is beyond dispute, however, is that he infused his work with a light and poetry that would inspire the work of the Venetian School during and after his short life. Giorgione tragically died at the age of thirty-three from the plague which was ravaging the Italian countryside in the early sixteenth century. This newly found document from the Archivio di Stato di Venezia reveals an inventory of Giorgione's worldly goods after his untimely death on the Lazzaretto nuovo (the island of quarantine in the Venetian lagoon).

The document also sheds light on certain facts of Giorgione's life such as his surname, his father's identity and other family details. By sifting through this evidence one can build a picture of the artist's economic situation and everyday life.

The article puts some flesh on the bones of an artist whose life has been steeped in mystery since 1510.

The June issue of The Burlington Magazine is dedicated to new discoveries and attributions of old masters. Other articles cover: Vasari, Raphael, Ribera, Montagna, Verrochio and Veronese.

NOTE TO EDITORS: in any coverage of this important issue, please ensure THE BURLINGTON MAGAZINE is acknowledged.

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