

# THE BURLINGTON MAGAZINE

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*The journal of record for new discoveries and attributions in art*

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### The Skating Minister: Raeburn or Danloux?

Two years ago, THE BURLINGTON MAGAZINE published a controversial article by Stephen Lloyd of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh, in which he attributed the 'Skating Minister' (c. 1800) - the celebrated picture of the Revd Robert Walker - to the French artist Henri-Pierre Danloux. It had long been known as the work of Sir Henry Raeburn and has been one of his most often reproduced paintings and among the most famous exhibits in the National Gallery of Scotland. Lloyd argued his new attribution through close analysis of other works by Danloux, some in Scottish collections dating from the years the artist spent in Edinburgh. He also examined the painting's provenance in the light of Walker family lore. Press and media coverage was immense. But one eminent Raeburn scholar, Duncan Thomson, formerly of the National Gallery of Scotland, stuck resolutely to the traditional attribution.



In this month's BURLINGTON, Thomson carefully examines the drawing and paint-handling of the picture, illustrating his observations by comparisons with other paintings by Raeburn. He notes several distinct differences between the work of Danloux and Raeburn, reaffirms his belief that the painting is indeed by the latter artist and wonders 'why a re-attribution of this unusual, and now iconic, painting was ever attempted'.

This reply to Stephen Lloyd's article has been long awaited and should be read by anyone interested in this fascinating controversy. It is almost certain that Duncan Thomson's article will not be the last word on the matter.

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

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