

DRAWINGS OF THE LIFE OF CHRIST BY NICOLA CONSONI

Artist: Nicola Consoni
 Date: ca. 1850-60
 Dimensions: Approximately 26 x 18 cm
 Material: Tempera on wood
 Inventory Number: 58651,2,3,4,5,6,7,8

Total Cost € 8.750,00

STATE OF PRESERVATION:

The work is currently covered in a thick layer of dust, dulling the appearance of the colors. There are gaps and missing tempera as well as tears in the paper. Previous restorations and old glue are causing problems on the paper. The edges are also damaged, scraped off and affected by insects.

RESTORATION PROCESS INCLUDES:

- Dust suction and micro-dust suction
- Reintegration of colors
- Removal of old, crystallized glue
- Closing the tears with Japanese paper and special glue
- Retouching of the pictorial surface and filling of gaps with Japanese paper and watercolors
- Reinforcement of the edges
- New stabilizing support
- Photographic documentation



Sketch of a prophet for the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

Front page:
 The Pope meeting a Greek Orthodox Patriarch.

Nicola Consoni was born in Ceprano, a small town in Frosinone, Lazio, in 1814. He attended the Academy of Fine Arts in Perugia, where he was a pupil of Mantua G. Sanguinetti. He then moved to Rome and studied under Minardi, whose teaching determined his purist choices and classical style. There he lived in the Via del Vantaggio, close to Piazza del Popolo. In 1839, at the age of twenty-five, Consoni, along with the most famous artists of the time, took part in the decoration of the Palazzo Torlonia in Piazza Venezia.

While in Rome, Consoni also worked with the Torlonia family in the palace of Don Marino, on Via dei Condotti in the city center. There he completed three paintings in 1851 for the Duchess of Poli's room. The paintings represent Philosophy and ancient poets of philosophy and poetry. In 1854, Consoni painted the Madonna and Child with St. Anthony of Padua and the patron, lawyer Antonio Colarieti, for the Colarieti Family.

It may have been during those years which Consoni completed the small drawings in tempera illustrating the episodes of the life of Christ which are published here in our Wishbook. These drawings were made for one of the new rooms of the Corsini library in Rome, built by Prince Tommaso Corsini.

Later, Consoni played an important role in the decoration of the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, where he painted frescoes in the nave, the two scenes with Paul and Barnabas at the council in Jerusalem and the Healing of the Father of Publius in Malta. He also contributed to the cartoons of the façade mosaics depicting the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel, below Jesus Christ between St. Peter and St. Paul. Between 1866 and 1867 he completed one of his more ambitious undertakings, the decoration of the Loggia of Pius IX in the Vatican.

Twice president of the Academy of St. Luke, in 1878 and in 1883, and recipient of the medals of the Order of the Crown of Italy and of St. Stephen, Nicola Consoni was also a sensitive portraitist and illustrator, as evidenced by his graphic works now found in both public and private collections. He died in Rome on December 21, 1884.

