

THIS great drawing is of Passeri, and finely coloured. Total number of drawings in this whole collection, excepting those books where there are no Indexes: Leon. da Vinci, 12. M. Angelo, 27. Andr. Mantegna, 23. Perugino, 6. R. Urbino, 25. Andr. del Sarto, 10. B. Bandinelli, 6. Corregio, 63. Dandi vol Terra, 6. Gorgione, 7. Jul. Romano, 15. Perdinone, 9. Polidoro, 32. Parmens, 35. Perino, 21. Titian, 12. Bernin, 14. Sacchi, 8. The 5 Caracci, 74. Domenchino, 45. Guido, 6. Della Bella, 12. Callot, many. In all, with the rest mentioned in this catalogue, 527. For which 2111 drawings, they demand three thousand crowns; or 750 *l.* sterling: They are worth any money.

J. T.

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XXXII. *Extracts relating to a Statue of Venus.*

Read at the SOCIETY of ANTIQUARIES, February 5, 1761.

**M**R. WRAY informed the Society, that Mr. Mackinlay, in a letter to the Earl of Morton, dated Rome, January 9th, 1761, gives an account, that in September last, a Venus of most exquisite workmanship, was dug up in the Mons Coelius, near the Clivo Scauri, at Rome. It is in the possession of the Marquis Carnovallia, who gave fifty Scudi to the workmen, their full demand, on the half of the value, according to agreement; though it is worth some thousands. It is full six feet high, in the same attitude of the Venus de Medicis, with this difference, that she holds her right hand before her breast, and her left supports a light drape-  
perry

perly before. On the base, which is of one piece with the statue, and quite entire, is the following inscription.

ΑΠΟ ΤΗΣ  
ΕΝ ΤΡΟΙΑΔΙ  
ΑΦΡΟΔΙΤΗΣ  
ΜΗΝΟΦΑΝΤΟΣ  
ΕΠΟΙΕΙ

Read at the SOCIETY, of ANTIQUARIES April 2, 1761.

**I**N a letter from Mr. Jenkyns to the Secretary, dated Rome, January 17th, 1761, he informs us, that at the first reading of this inscription, the Dilettanti seemed greatly to interest themselves, from its being understood to express, “copied from the “Trojan Venus;” whereas he believes it means, copied from the Venus of the Trojan country. Had the former been the case, he thinks it would have given a strong proof of the excellence of the art of sculpture at the time that Troy was in being; but, according to the latter explanation, it may admit of a considerable difference; for many cities in the Trojan country subsisted some centuries, probably, after the destruction of Troy. He is nevertheless of opinion, that the statue alluded to was of the greatest excellence, and of a very early age.

Read at the SOCIETY of ANTIQUARIES, April 9, 1761.

**B**Y the minutes read last Thursday, we were informed, “that “a statue of Venus of most exquisite workmanship was dug “up in September last, in the Mons Coelius, near the Clivo, “at Rome; that it is in the same attitude as the Venus of Medicis, “but with some drapery added; and that the name of the sculptor “is inscribed on the base of it:” to which particulars I shall desire leave to offer a few notes.

NOTWITHSTANDING the theatre built by M. Scaurus, the powerful son-in-law of Sylla, when he was Aedile, was the largest

ever erected, whose pit could contain eighty thousand people, and which was adorned with three thousand brass statues [p]; yet as it was only temporary, and to remain scarcely a month in use [q], we need not be surprized that the place where it stood is not mentioned in antient authors: But the situation of the magnificent House of this rich and expenfive Roman is most accurately described by Asconius [r], who says it stood in the Palatium, at the end of the first street, on the left hand as they descended from the Sacra Via. “Demonstrasse  
“ vobis memini me, hanc domum in ea parte palatii esse, quae, cum  
“ ab Sacra via descenderis, et per proximum vicum, qui est ab finif-  
“ tra parte, prodieris, posita est.” And it was this grand structure which probably gave name to the Scauri Clivus, mentioned by Saint Gregory, as I find him quoted in Nardini [s], which Clivus, Nardini places indeed on Mons Coelius, but on that part of it next the Mons Palatinus.

ROSSI, in his “Raccolta di Statue,” Pl. 144, gives a print of a Venus in the attitude mentioned by Mr. Mackinlay’s letter, except that the drapery is fringed, and part of it is thrown over her right arm; and that her head is dressed like that of the Belvedere Apollo; a Dolphin is also by her, as in the Medicean Venus, but without the little Cupids. This Statue is said to be “in casa di  
“ Ignatio Configlieri.”

AND Mr. Richardson [t] mentions “a small Venus in the attitude  
“ of that of Medicis, only ’tis cloathed from the waist down-  
“ wards, and has the head dressed as the Apollo of the Belvedere.” It was in the “Villa of Cav. Caffali, in monte Coelio,” the very part of Rome where the statue of the Marquis Carnovallia was found.

[p] C. Plin. Nat. Hist. lib. xxxvi. cap. 24. § 7.

[q] Ib. cap. 2.

[r] In Cic. pro M. Scauro Orat.

[s] Lib. vii. Epist. 13. apud F. Nardini Rom. Vet. Lib. iii. cap. 7.

[t] An Account of Statues, &c. Engl. p. 285. Fr. p. 527.

MR. RICHARDSON also says [u], that “ in the Palazzo del Duca di Bracciano, which was of the prince Don Livio Odescalchi, there was a Venus of Medicis, her bosom covered with a thin drapery, and so down to below the knee, on the right side, the left not quite so low. This drapery is exquisite——’tis much larger than that of Medicis.” He had also “ seen other Venus’s in this attitude, and thus covered: one, if not more, in the gardens of Aldobrandini.”

THE learned Gentleman’s [x] observation, to whom we are obliged for this communication, that the number of the statues of Venus was greatly increased at Rome after the exaltation of the Julian family, who would be thought to have descended from her, is corroborated by the drapery given to some of them; which was undoubtedly done by the directions of Romans who employed the sculptors; for Grecian Artists, unless prevented, would have concealed nothing; as Pliny informs us [y]: “ Graeca res est, nihil velare.”

THE statuary having inscribed his name on it, is a proof, that he himself thought it excellent, as the great connoisseur the Baron de Stofch observes in his preface to the *Gemmae Antiquae*, graved by B. Picart [z], and who has there given us a list of such inscribed names he had seen himself, some of which are not mentioned in the catalogue of Fr. Junius, as is neither Menophantus the sculptor of this Venus.

IF any thing here said may merit to be annexed to the above-mentioned Minute, it will be esteemed an honor conferred on, Sir,

Your most obedient,

Humble servant,

CHA. ROGERS.

Laurence Pountney Lane,  
Feb. 25, 1761.

[u] *Ib.* Engl. p. 176, 7. Fr. p. 280, 1.

[x] Mr. Wray.

[y] *Lib.* xxxiv. cap. 10.

[z] P. 14.