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Goelet Family Papers

12-3-1891

Letter from George Donaldson to Ogden Goelet

George Donaldson

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106, NEW BOND STREET,

LONDON Dec 3 1891

Dear Sir

I am just
back from two months
in Italy and find
you of Nov 13th and
I am very and
mortified at the mistake
my packing man
made about the postcard.
The facts are these, I

had early blanches to buy
for M^{rs} Watney lot 271
which reads thus in Catalogue

"A large black Boule intaid
intaid with scrolls & C
in ornate, and mounted with
the same." 105 Guineas

I have as you had
expressed a desire to have
one of the Boule intaid
"if moderate in price".

I bought for you lot 402
for 41 Guineas which is
described in Catalogue thus
"A Louis XIV intaid of

black Boule intaid with
fleur de lis, crown & foliage
and with female masks
and feet of chased ornate."

So you will at once
see that the one sent
in error is the "large" one
at 105^{gs}, and not the one
bought for you and
charged to you 41 guineas.

I much regret the
mistake and beg you
will at once send it back
and if duty has been
paid I must put up with

the loss. But your agents
could perhaps arrange
with the customs to send
that out and receive the
other in its place. In any
case I hope I may rely
upon you to relieve
me speedily of an
unfortunate dilemma.

You will remember
perhaps that at the sale
in Florence (Villa Salustiana)
where I bought the bed
for you, The celebrated
Throne or seat of Julius
the Medicis was knocked

down to me for over
£1500 - and it occurs
to me that this surely
would be a fine thing
for you to have. The
carving is wonderful and
being unique it is worth
anything. I shall still
have to pay the Station
duty on works of art leaving
the country and many
other expenses, but if
you like to decide, I
give you the first refusal
at £2000 - Our museum

people have been to
me about it and would
give me 10% on the
cost. which does not
suit me after all the
trouble I have had.

It is still in Florence,
and I have not yet
tried to sell it for the
reason that the Italian
Government have not
even yet given permission
for it to leave the country.
But the matter is now
before the minister and
will I think be decided

in my favour in a week
or so. And now is your
chance to get a very fine
thing. I send this
post a journal (l'Art
of 1880 which gives
a feeble print of it and
a fair description. But
it is well known and
figures in several works
on Italian Art.

The carving is by Baccio
d'Agnolo. and is very
remarkable. It would
be a comfortable seat with

pillows. It is 9 ft long
and stands out 3 ft
and is in perfect preservation.

I advise you strongly to
buy it but I will not
take less than the price
named.

Can I not be said
you any of the things
you saw here?

With the hope that you
are in the enjoyment of good
health. I am

Yours very truly

George Donaldson
LONDON
18

106, NEW BOND STREET,

Ogden Colet. Esq