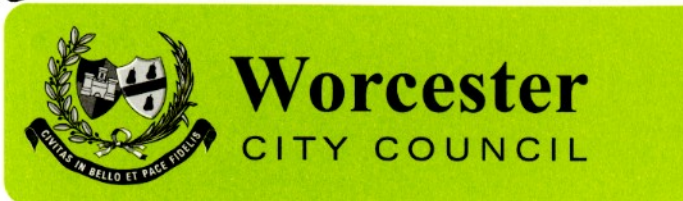


06CMA0071 Aja museum - Collier



Mr Roger T MacFarlane
Associate Professor Classics
Brigham Young University
3008 Joseph F Smith Building
Provo
Utah 84602-6702
U.S.A.

This matter is being dealt with by Garston Phillips

on Direct Line No. (01905) 722230
on Fax No. (01905) 722350
e-mail: gphillips1@worcestershire.gov.uk

Our ref: GP/VL

Date: 22 November 2010

Dear Mr MacFarlane

"CLYTEMNESTRA" BY HON. JOHN COLLIER

Thank you for your enquiry re the above painting which we have in our collection here at the art gallery.

We know very little of its history or how it came to be part of our collection. The only thing written down is that it was donated to the gallery by Kilbourne Kay in 1939. It is a very large painting measuring 238 x 147.8 and sits in a wonderful gilt frame which looks like two columns holding up a partial portico in the form of a Greek style temple. We believe it to be a genuine work by Collier and was painted in 1914. People have commented that it is a much more accurate version of the one that is in the Guildhall Art Gallery painted in 1882. I recall that many, many years ago someone pointing out a very similar painting to the one we have, but instead of Clytemnestra holding a sword she is grasping an axe. My memory (which is not as good as it was) tells me that the painting was in a gallery in the North West – somewhere in Lancashire. It may well have been Blackpool Art Gallery – for my own curiosity and the records here I will write to them and enquire – any information I received I will forward on to you.

An interesting story about our painting is that it was hung on the main staircase for many years and then one day back in the early 1950's its chains broke and it fell down causing damage to some of the stone steps. The marks can still be seen today. I am enclosing a photocopy of our painting for you to see what it looks like.

www.worcestercitymuseums.org.uk

Continued ...

www.worcester.gov.uk

Location: Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum, Foregate Street, Worcester WR1 1DT

Tel: 01905 25371 **Fax:** 01905 616979 **Email:** artgalleryandmuseum@worcester.gov.uk



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If you would like a coloured high quality image, one can be provided but there will be a charge. For further details on that you would need to contact our collections manager Philippa Tinsley. Her email address is ptinsley@worcestershire.gov.uk.

I trust this helps with your research.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Garston D Phillips', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

GARSTON D PHILLIPS
COLLECTIONS OFFICER

