French Paintings and Pastels, 1600–1945
The Collections of The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

Aimee Marcereau DeGalan, Editor
Jean Etienne Liotard, *A Lady in Turkish Dress and Her Servant*, ca. 1750

<table>
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<th>Artist</th>
<th>Jean Etienne Liotard, Swiss, 1702–1789</th>
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<td>Title</td>
<td><em>A Lady in Turkish Dress and Her Servant</em></td>
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<td>Alternate and Variant Titles</td>
<td><em>A Turkish lady and her servant, Dame et sa servante au bain</em></td>
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<td>Medium</td>
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<td>Dimensions (Unframed)</td>
<td>28 1/2 x 22 1/2 in. (72.4 x 57.2 cm)</td>
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**Catalogue Entry**

**Citation**

**Chicago:**


**MLA:**


Fig. 1. Jean Etienne Liotard, *Self-Portrait*, 1753, enamel with ivory backing encased in gilded Hatfield frame, oval: 2 5/16 x 1 3/4 in. (5.9 x 4.5 cm), The Royal Collection Trust, His Majesty King Charles III, London, RCIN 421436

In this painting by Jean Etienne Liotard, a sumptuously clothed woman, wearing the layered garments typical of Ottoman Turkish women’s dress, gestures to her more
modestly attired attendant. Every detail of clothing is carefully and accurately rendered in thin, smooth layers of paint, from the sheen of the servant's striped silk habit to the details of her mistress's embroidered red robe, loose trousers, and scarves, and the reflected light on her gold coin necklace, filigree bracelet, and delicate rings. The basin (kurna) in the background indicates that the women are in the public bath (hamam), as do the high pattens or clogs (nailin) that both wear to protect their feet from the damp floor. The double-sided comb and pot of henna on the servant's tray additionally reference the rituals of the bath. set sail in 1738 for the Ottoman Empire in the company of Sir William Ponsonby (1704–1793), the future Earl of Bessborough, a British aristocrat embarking on his Grand Tour. Ponsonby remained Liotard's most dedicated patron for his entire career and served as his connection to other British peers. Liotard stayed in the Eastern Mediterranean until 1742, working first in Constantinople (present-day Istanbul) and later at the court of the Ottoman vassal state of Moldavia (present-day Romania and Moldova). His sojourn in the Ottoman Empire and his firsthand encounters with its peoples were aspects of the persona of le peintre turc (the Turkish painter) that he fashioned for himself once he returned to Europe in 1743. Although Liotard resided in the capitals of western Europe for the rest of his life, he continued to wear the vaguely Turkish costume of a robe, cap, and baggy pants that he first adopted in Constantinople until his death in 1789 (Fig. 1). A prolific and incisive portraitist in pastel, enameled, and oils, Liotard forged an immensely successful practice for himself, working in Vienna, Paris, London, Amsterdam, Geneva, and elsewhere. Throughout his long career, Liotard continued to create and exhibit Turkish-themed drawings and pastels. Such pictures simultaneously consolidated his reputation as le peintre turc and catered to widespread European interest in the Ottoman Empire and its inhabitants.

If Liotard's sartorial appearance was remarkable, so was his art. His pastels and paintings were unusual for their meticulous execution and their smooth, seamless surfaces. In 1781, he published his Traité des principes et des règles de la peinture (Treatise on the Principles and Rules of Painting), in which he decried the painterly flourishes of the era and gave instructions on how to render more forthright pictures in different mediums. Such careful description was at odds with much eighteenth-century European painting, but it lent his portraits and his Turkish subjects a sense of mimetic accuracy that was appreciated by his patrons. To his admirers, Liotard was the painter of truth.

Nevertheless, like all his Turkish-themed pictures, Liotard's painting of the women in the hamam is staged. Although they are dressed in Turkish clothing, the women are not Turkish Muslims but Franks, a catchall term used to describe Europeans living in the Ottoman Empire. As a European man, Liotard had no access to Muslim women, nor did he or any man, Frankish or Muslim, have access to the bath when women were present. Liotard's painting thus presents the viewer with

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Fig. 2. Jean-Baptiste vanmour, artist (1671–1737), and Jean-Baptiste Haussard, engraver (1679 or 1680–1749), Turkish Girl Having Her Hair Braided in the Bath, 1714, engraving, published in Recueil de cent estampes représentant différentes nations du Levant (Paris: L. Cars, 1714), pl. 49. From the New York Public Library.
a fictional glimpse into the unseen lives of women in the empire. Like the equally inaccessible harem, the women’s bath had long been a subject of European fascination.²

In this envisioning of the bath, however, Liotard incongruously combines the hamam’s most recognizable accoutrements, the kurna and the pattens, with another staple of European interest in the empire: the sumptuous clothing of Ottoman Muslim women. He thus merges the theme of the hamam with that of the costume plate. The presence of the kurna suggests the women are in the hottest room of a Turkish bath complex, a space where patrons were generally fully disrobed. This setting is at odds with the full dress of the figures in the Nelson-Atkins painting: the woman at right wears not only several layers of clothing but also a fur-lined waistcoat. Liotard’s representation is a more chaste image of the bath than other earlier scenes. Whether by Ottoman or European artists, seventeenth- and eighteenth-century images of the hamam often show the female bather nude or with a light drape, washing or being washed by an attendant while seated on a low stone platform (Fig. 2). Others show decorously covered women and their attendants en route to the hamam and carrying bundles of necessities for the bath.³ By contrast, Liotard’s decision to depict the interior of the hamam, with his models having discarded their outdoor robes but not their indoor clothing, facilitates the full display of Turkish women’s costume and the inclusion of many more signs of “Turkishness” within the scene. In addition to the pattens, basin, low platforms, and tiled floor of the bath, the viewer of Liotard’s painting is presented with richly patterned textiles, jewels, a long pipe, and hennæd fingertips and toes, all represented in vivid color and striking detail.

Liotard’s composition was a popular one. The Nelson-Atkins painting is one of five known autograph versions on the same theme. Three of these, now in the Musée d’art et d’histoire in Geneva, the Museum Oskar
Reinhart in Winterthur, and a private collection, are in pastel on vellum. Another, now in the Lusail Museum, Doha, Qatar, is a pastel on paper laid down on canvas (Fig. 3). The Nelson-Atkins version is the only one executed in oil. All five are roughly the same dimensions and differ from one another only slightly. In the Geneva pastel (Fig. 4), for instance, the women are placed closer to each other than in the Nelson-Atkins painting; the figures and their nalm cast more shadow; and the tiles are evenly divided. In the Nelson-Atkins canvas, except for her pattens, the figure at the right casts no shadow at all, and the central dividing line of the tiles is missing.

In the other three versions, the floor is not tiled. It is unclear which of the pictures was executed first, although Liotard’s cataloguers have plausibly posited the Geneva pastel as the first and suggested that it was based on a drawing, now lost, executed in Constantinople. The Nelson-Atkins painting is thus a later version. There is no underdrawing underdrawing on the canvas, and Liotard made no changes or alterations while painting it. However, an incised, ruled line is visible along the right edge of the pipe. This detail is suggestive of Liotard’s procedure when executing versions of his own compositions. Having established the position of the pipe and thus of the figure holding it, he proceeded to replicate his earlier image in paint.

It is difficult to date the five autograph versions of this motif accurately, but their provenances follow a similar pattern. Seventy percent of Liotard’s works were commissions from his clients, many of whom were British aristocrats. One of the pastel versions of this picture was owned by Sir Everard Fawkener (1684–1758), a British ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, and another was probably owned by Englishman John Hawkins (1761–1841), a geologist and writer who also traveled to the Ottoman Empire. Nelson-Atkins researcher Glynnis Stevenson discovered that the museum’s painting probably was the version listed in a sale orchestrated by James Christie on February 6, 1787, encompassing the property of “a lady of fashion” and conducted from her home at “no. 48, on the South Side of Charles Street, Berkeley Square.” Lot 60, titled “A Turkish Lady and Her Servant,” was purchased from the sale by Robert Monckton-Arundell (1758–1810), 4th Viscount Galway. The “lady of fashion” at 48 Charles Street may have been a member of the extended Monckton family, and indeed, Jane Westenra (ca. 1710–1788), Dowager Viscountess Galway, had a residence in Charles Street at that time. It is possible that Westenra inherited the Nelson-Atkins painting from her husband, John Monckton (1695–1751), 1st Viscount Galway, who was a formidable collector of Old Master paintings. He was also a member of the Society of Dilettanti, a drinking club for British gentlemen who sponsored young intellectuals on their Grand Tour. Liotard made portraits of several members of this group in both oil and pastel, so it is plausible that Lord Galway commissioned the painting from the artist. If it is the case that Lady Galway was the owner of the works of art and household objects in the 1787 sale, then we can see from the sales ledger that members of her family sought to retain ownership of the collection.

The painting purchased by Monckton-Arundell in 1787 reappears in the historical record in 1924. In a letter dated February 22, 1924, Robert Langton Douglas (1864–1951), an art critic, prominent dealer, and the director of the National Gallery of Ireland, wrote to thank George Edmund Milnes Monckton-Arundell, 7th Viscount Galway, for allowing him to visit his estate, Serlby Hall, Bawtry, York, and see his “paintings by Liotard and Pannini [sic].” The Liotard that Douglas mentions might have been the Nelson-Atkins painting. This would suggest that it passed by law of succession through the Monckton-Arundell family. In 1947, the painting, perhaps erroneously listed as “A Coloured Pastel” and titled Interior with Turkish Lady and Servant in Richly Coloured Robes, was sold by Lucia Emily Margaret Monckton-Arundell (née White, 1890–1983), 8th Viscountess Galway, in what appears to have been a large estate sale from her family home. This narrative does not correspond to any of the other four known versions of the painting, as each of them were accounted for in other collections in 1947. Marcel Roethlisberger, Liotard’s cataloguer, attests that it is highly unlikely that there is a sixth, undiscovered pastel version of this motif. Instead, he agrees that the “Coloured Pastel” in the 1947 sale is probably the Nelson-Atkins oil painting. It was very common for Liotard’s works to be identified as pastels because the artist worked far more frequently in that medium than he did in oil. This makes it likely that the Nelson-Atkins picture belonged to the Monckton-Arundell family for most of its history. Furthermore, this fits with what we know of Liotard’s popularity among British collectors and suggests that some of Liotard’s admirers, the artist’s Turkish genre scenes functioned as much to underscore their self-representation as men who had traveled to the empire as they did for le peintre turc himself.

Kristel Smentek
June 2013, Revised 2018
Notes


9. See *A Catalogue of the late Sir Everard Fawkener’s Pictures, . . . Several large portraits of English Gentlemen, by Liotard, in frames and glasses . . .* (London, 1759), lot 57, as “A Turkish lady and her slave small whole lengths in a Frame and glass.” The presence of glass suggests the work was a pastel. The works by Liotard in the Fawkener sale are transcribed in Roethlisberger and Loche, *Liotard*, 1:161. They note that Fawkener’s Turkish-themed works by Liotard were probably executed in Constantinople.


11. I thank Glynnis Stevenson for the provenance of this painting, the information about the Monckton-Arundell and Westonra families, and the revisions to this entry. See A Catalogue of the Elegant Household Furniture, Collection of Pictures, . . ., *The Property of A Lady of Fashion, at her house, Situate no. 48, on the South Side of Charles Street, Berkeley Square* (London: Christie’s, February 5–6, 1787), 12, as *A Turkish lady and her Servant*.

12. In the sales ledger, he was listed as “L Galway,” and the name “Monckton” appears repeatedly throughout the ledger.

13. Land tax records for Charles Street from 1786 to 1787 show that “Lady Galway” owned property there. Lady Galway lived there with her daughter, Miss Mary Monckton (1748–1840), who operated a renowned salon at the Charles Street property and was a well-known “lady of fashion”; see Amy Prendergast, *Literary Salons Across Britain and Ireland in the Long Eighteenth Century* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015), 61. However, the year before the painting was sold, Mary Monckton married Edmund Boyle (1742–1798), 7th Earl of Cork and 7th Earl of Orrery, and moved to his home in New Burlington Street, London.

14. Letter from Douglas to George Edmund Milnes Monckton-Arundell, February 22, 1924, Correspondence and Personal Papers of George Edmund Milnes Monckton-Arundell, 7th Viscount Galway (1844–1931), and Vere Monckton-Arundell, 7th Viscountess Galway (d. 1931), Manuscripts and Special Collections, Ga 2 E 180, University of Nottingham Libraries.

15. *Oil Paintings and Water Colours by Old Masters; . . . By order of the Rt. Hon. the Viscountess Galway* (Bawtry, Yorkshire, UK: Henry Spencer and Sons, 1947), 17, erroneously as *A Coloured Pastel—Interior with Turkish Lady and Servant in richly coloured robes*.

16. The Geneva and Wintherthur versions have remained in Switzerland since the 1930s. The Qatar version was in London in 1935, and then it
was with Alfred Hausamann in Zurich until it descended to his daughter in 1978. The version once possessed by John Hawkins was purchased from Geneva dealer Rodolphe Dunky by Bernard Naef, Geneva, in 1937, and remained with his descendants until 1995.


Technical Entry

Technical entry forthcoming.

Documentation

Citation

Chicago:


MLA:


Provenance

Probably Jane Westenra (ca. 1710–1788), Dowager Viscountess Galway, London, by 1787 [1];

Purchased from her sale, Elegant Household Furniture, Collection of Pictures, By Old Esteemed Masters, Particularly A Capital Landscape and Figures by Berghem, etc. And other Valuable Effects, The Property of A Lady of Fashion, at her house, Situate no. 48, on the South Side of Charles Street, Berkeley Square, Christie’s, London, February 6, 1787, lot 60, as A Turkish lady and her servant, by Robert Monckton-Arundell (1758–1810), 4th Viscount Galway, Serlby Hall, Bawtry, Yorkshire, UK, 1787–1810 [2];

Probably by descent to his son, William Monckton-Arundell (1782–1834), later Monckton, 5th Viscount Galway, Serlby Hall, Bawtry, Yorkshire, UK, by 1810–1834;

Probably by descent to his son, George Edward Arundell Monckton-Arundell (1805–1876), 6th Viscount Galway, Serlby Hall, Bawtry, Yorkshire, UK, by 1834–1876;

Probably by descent to his son, George Edmund Milnes Monckton-Arundell (1844–1931), 7th Viscount Galway, Serlby Hall, Bawtry, Yorkshire, UK, by 1876–1931 [3];

Probably by descent to his son, George Vere Arundell Monckton-Arundell (1882–1943), 8th Viscount Galway, Serlby Hall, Bawtry, Yorkshire, UK, by 1931–1943;

To his wife, Lucia Emily Margaret Monckton-Arundell (née White, 1890–1983), 8th Viscountess Galway, Serlby Hall, Bawtry, Yorkshire, UK, by 1943–1947 [4];

Sold at her sale, Oil Paintings and Water Colours by Old Masters; English and Continental Porcelain Groups and Figures, Furniture, Objects of Vertu, Miniatures and Books, Serlby Hall, Bawtry, Yorkshire, UK, October 24, 1947, lot 156, as A Coloured Pastel—Interior with Turkish Lady and Servant in richly coloured robes [5];

With Brookfields Successors, Ltd., Stafford, UK, by November 20, 1953 [6];

Purchased at their sale, Old Pictures and Drawings: The Property of Ernest B. Hall, Esq., deceased, removed from Hales Hall, Market Drayton (Sold by Order of the Executors); The Property of the Hon. Charles Nelson and from Other Sources, Christie, Manson and Woods, Ltd., London, November 20, 1953, lot 138, as Two Eastern Girls at a Fountain, by P. and D. Colnaghi, London, stock no. A 3021, as A Turkish Lady with her Attendant, 1953-January 1, 1956 [7];


Notes

[1] Cited as a “lady of fashion” in the 1787 Christie’s sale, the owner was likely Jane Westenra (ca. 1710–1788), Dowager Viscountess Galway, also known as Lady Galway. Land tax documents from 1786–1787 show that Lady Galway owned property in Charles Street, although they do not specify house numbers or who lived in no. 48. “Lady Galway in the London, England, Land Tax
Records, 1692–1932,” LMA/4263/01/1157, Ancestry.co.uk. Another less likely possibility for the “lady of fashion” is Lady Galway’s daughter, Mary Monckton (1748–1840), who, until her marriage in 1786, lived with her mother in Charles Street.

[2] The buyer of lot 60 in the 1787 sale was annotated as “Ld Galway,” and has been identified by the Getty Provenance Databases as Robert Monckton-Arundell, 4th Viscount Galway, who was the step-grandson of the painting’s likely seller, Jane Westenra, Dowager Viscountess Galway, also known as Lady Galway. “Lot 60, Sale Catalog Br-A1553,” Getty Provenance Index Databases, Los Angeles. “Ld Galway” only appears once in the sale’s buyers’ list; however, the name “Monckton” appears repeatedly.

[3] In a letter dated February 22, 1924, Robert Langton Douglas (1864–1951), the art critic, prominent dealer, and director of the National Gallery of Ireland, wrote to thank George Edmund Milnes Monckton-Arundell, 7th Viscount Galway, for allowing him to visit his estate, Serlby Hall, and see his “paintings by Liotard and Pannini [sic]”. The Liotard that Douglas mentioned might be the Nelson-Atkins painting. “Letter from R. Langton Douglas, 2 Hill Street, Berkeley Square [London] to George Edmund Milnes Monckton-Arundell, 7th Viscount Galway; 22 Feb. 1924,” Ga 2 E 180, Correspondence and Personal Papers of George Edmund Milnes Monckton-Arundell, 7th Viscount Galway (1844–1931) and Vere Monckton-Arundell, 7th Viscountess Galway (d. 1931), University of Nottingham Libraries, Manuscripts and Special Collections, copy in NAMA curatorial files.

[4] The provenance from 1810 to 1947 is based upon the right of succession and assumes that the painting descended from parent to firstborn child.

[5] Although the picture is listed as a pastel, this is probably erroneous, since the four other pastel versions of the painting are accounted for in other collections at this time. See email from Marcel Räthlisberger, Professor Emeritus, University of Geneva, to Glynnis Stevenson, the Nelson-Atkins, May 16, 2018, NAMA curatorial files.

[6] Brookfields Successors, Ltd., was a department store and estate liquidation company in Stafford, who consigned the painting to the Christie’s sale of November 20, 1953. Several advertisements in The Staffordshire Advertiser in the 1940s and 1950s show that Brookfield’s Successors also provided funeral director services. By late 1953, Brookfield’s was going out of business and liquidating their stock. See email from Daniel Jarmai, Christie’s Archives, London, to Glynnis Stevenson, the Nelson-Atkins, May 22, 2018, NAMA curatorial files. The William Salt Library in Stafford was unable to provide further information.


Related Works

Jean Etienne Liotard, *Lady and her Maid at the Bath (Dame et sa servente au bain)*, 1738–1742, pastel on parchment, 27 11/12 x 20 5/6 in. (71.0 x 53.0 cm), Musée d’art et d’histoire, Geneva.

Jean Etienne Liotard, *Lady and her Maid at the Bath (Dame et sa servante au bain)*, 1738–1742, pastel on parchment, 28 1/2 x 22 1/2 in. (72.4 x 57.2 cm), Museum Oskar Reinhart am Stadtgarten, Winterthur.

Jean Etienne Liotard, *Lady and her Maid at the Bath (Dame et sa servante au bain)*, 1750–1753, pastel on parchment, 27 2/3 x 22 1/2 in. (70.3 x 56.3 cm), private collection.

Jean Etienne Liotard, *A Lady in Turkish Costume with Her Servant at the Hammam*, ca. 1748–1754, pastel on paper mounted to canvas, 27 11/12 x 22 1/12 in. (70.9 x 56.0 cm), Lusail Museum (formerly the Orientalist Museum), Doha, Qatar.

Exhibitions

*Paintings by Old Masters*, P. and D. Colnaghi and Company, London, April 1954, no. 14, as *A Turkish Lady with her Attendant*.


*The Century of Mozart*, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO, January 15–March 4, 1956, no. 67, as *A Turkish Lady and Her Attendant*.

*Acquisitions of 1956*, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO, April 1957, no cat., as *A Turkish Lady and Her Attendant*.


Casanova: The Seduction of Europe, Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, TX, August 27–December 31, 2017; Legion of Honor, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, February 10–May 28, 2018; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, July 8–October 8, 2018, no. 51, as A Frankish Woman and Her Servant.

References

A Catalogue of the Elegant Household Furniture, Collection of Pictures, By Old Esteemed Masters, Particularly A Capital Landscape and Figures by Berghem, etc. And other Valuable Effects, The Property of A Lady of Fashion, at her house, Situate no. 48, on the South Side of Charles Street, Berkeley Square (London: Christie's, February 5–6, 1787), 12, as A Turkish lady and her Servant.

Oil Paintings and Water Colours by Old Masters; English and Continental Porcelain Groups and Figures, Furniture, Objects of Vertu, Miniatures and Books, Serlby Hall, Bawtry, Yorks, By order of the Rt. Hon. the Viscountess Galway (Bawtry, Yorkshire, UK: Henry Spencer and Sons, 1947), 17, erroneously as A Coloured Pastel—Interior with Turkish Lady and Servant in richly coloured robes.


Catalogue of Old Pictures and Drawings: The Property of Ernest B. Hall, Esq., deceased, removed from Hales Hall, Market Drayton (Sold by Order of the Executors); The Property of the Hon. Charles Nelson and from Other Sources (London: Christie, Manson and Woods, 1953), 18, as Two Eastern Girls at a Fountain.


Winifred Shields, “Among the New Acquisitions of the Nelson Gallery of Art: Paintings, Sculptures, and an 18th Century Room Are Added to the Art Treasures,” Kansas City Star 76, no. 113 (January 8, 1956): [1]E, as Turkish Lady with Her Attendant.


“Treasures of Kansas City,” Connoisseur 145, no. 584 (April 1960): 123, as Turkish Lady with her Attendant.
Art Institute of Chicago, *Index to Art Periodicals* (Boston: G. K. Hall, 1962), 6:5299, as *A Turkish Lady and her attendant.*

Dino Fabbri, ed., *I Maestri del colore*, vol. 240, Liotard (Milan: Fratelli Fabbri Editori, 1966), unpaginated, as *Due turche.*


Renée Loche, *Jean-Étienne Liotard* (Geneva: Musée d’art et d’histoire, 1976), 27, as *Femme turque et fillette sur des échasses.*


Genre, exh. cat. (Kansas City: Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 1983), 12, as *A Turkish Lady and Her Attendant.*


Nicholas H. J. Hall, ed., *Colnaghi in America: A Survey to Commemorate the First Decade of Colnaghi* New York (New York: Colnaghi, 1992), 129, as *A Frankish Woman and Her Servant.*

Anne de Herdt, * Dessins de Liotard: Suivi du catalogue de l’œuvre dessiné*, exh. cat. (Geneva: Musée d’art et d’histoire, 1992), 70, as *Dame franque et son esclave au hammam.*


Old Master Drawings (London: Christie’s, July 4, 1995), 74, as A Woman in Turkish Costume in a ‘hamam’ instructing her Servant.


Old Master and 19th Century Drawings (New York: Christie’s, January 23, 2002), 104, as A woman in Turkish costume in a ‘hamam’ instructing her servant.


Old Masters and 19th Century Art: Including Paintings, Drawings and Watercolours (London: Christie’s, July 7, 2009), 132, as A lady in Turkish costume with her servant at the hammam.


