

Stimatissimo Sig. Franco Pavan,
Via dell'Aprica, 24
20158 MILANO,
Italia.

Laguna Beach, 28 giugno 1992.

Dear Franco:

Thank you very much for your marvellous letter of 16 June responding to my several enquiries. I am very pleased to have the information about Merini, to know that he was a Milanese and when he was born. Even more important, perhaps, is the evaluation from G[iulio] Carotti and his comparison of the painting with the del Majno painting (now in the Pinacoteca di Brera), especially that Carotti (who had already demonstrated in 1890 considerable knowledge about several of these replicas) believed it to be from the same period as the del Majno picture, itself dated 1520. As you correctly suspected, this is important information, indeed.

Franco, I think that you have done everything humanly possible concerning the problem of obtaining another photograph, in the face of such obduracy as represented by the administration of the Accademia, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your efforts.

You conclude your letter by observing that you are in great debt to me; but, Franco, you have got it backwards! It is I who am in your debt! I do hope that we soon meet again so that I may shake your hand and thank you in person for your truly mighty efforts about this painting. I trust that by now you have seen Bill Prizer who has been instructed to take you to dinner on my behalf.

I was distressed to learn that you were ill during May. I very much hope that you are well recovered by now and that your health remains stable.

Again my thanks and gratitude to you. Please do keep in touch. With all good wishes to you for a happy summer,



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