



Titian  
Venetian, 1488/1490 - 1576

## *Cardinal Pietro Bembo*

1539/1540

oil on canvas

overall: 94.5 x 76.5 cm (37 3/16 x 30 1/8 in.)

framed: 124.6 x 106.7 x 11.4 cm (49 1/16 x 42 x 4 1/2 in.)

Samuel H. Kress Collection 1952.5.28

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### ENTRY

The traditional attribution to Titian and the identification of the sitter as the eminent humanist and prelate Pietro Bembo (1470–1547) have never been seriously contested. Bembo's distinctive features, with his long aquiline nose, are also known from two inscribed contemporary medals: one by Valerio Belli, probably of 1532 [fig. 1] [1] and another by an anonymous medallist, sometimes identified as either Benvenuto Cellini or as Danese Cattaneo [fig. 2]. [2] A 16th-century copy (Accademia Carrara, Bergamo) of a later variant by Titian of the present portrait (Capodimonte, Naples) [fig. 3], in which the head is turned at the same angle, is inscribed: P. BEMBO IMAGO/ EX PENNICILLO/ TICIANI. [3]

Bembo's historical importance is owing above all to his Aldine editions of Dante and Petrarch, which lent these authors the dignity of modern classics, and to his role in promoting the supremacy of their Tuscan language for all Italian literature. In his own day, he was also celebrated as a lyric poet and as the author of a Latin history of Venice. Bembo's literary vocation led him from an early age away from Venice, where as a member of a patrician family he would have been expected to enter public service, to the courts of Ferrara and Urbino (1506–1512), and subsequently to that of Leo X in Rome (1512–1521). After the death of Pope Leo, he pursued his literary and scholarly career chiefly at his family villa outside Padua, becoming official historian and librarian to the Venetian Republic in 1530. He was proclaimed cardinal in March 1539 and took up residence in Rome in October of the same year. He made a final visit to northern Italy, including Venice, in the autumn of 1543, and died in Rome as bishop of Bergamo and cardinal of San Clemente in January 1547. [4]

Although Bembo's scholarly career was crowned with the award of a cardinal's hat, his literary output was almost entirely secular, and his religious piety was no more than conventional. He was ordained as a priest only in December 1539, and although in his final years in Rome he was a friend of luminaries of the Catholic Reform, such as Cardinal Pole and Vittoria Colonna, he did not share their reforming zeal. By contrast, he took a keen interest in ancient and modern art, and during his years in Padua, he assembled one of the finest collections of paintings, sculptures, and manuscripts in northern Italy. His friend Marcantonio Michiel compiled a detailed description of Bembo's "museum" as it had evolved by circa 1530. [5] Some of the objects listed by Michiel, notably a diptych by Memling (incorporating the *Saint Veronica* panel now in the National Gallery of Art), [6] and portraits by Jacopo Bellini and Jacometto Veneziano (including one of Pietro as an 11-year-old boy), must have been collected or commissioned by Bembo's father, the distinguished diplomat Bernardo Bembo. But most of the works of art in the collection, including a portrait by Sebastiano del Piombo of the poet Sannazaro, and Raphael's double portrait *Andrea Navagero and Agostino Beazzano* (Galleria Doria Pamphili, Rome), clearly reflect the refined aesthetic tastes and personal interests of Bembo himself. At the same time, Michiel's description must be far from complete, since it does not mention any works by Giovanni Bellini or Titian, painters with whom Bembo is known to have had cordial relations. In two of his early sonnets, Bembo speaks of the portrait of his mistress painted for him by Bellini; [7] and according to Vasari, Titian had already painted a portrait of Bembo when the latter, in his capacity of secretary to Leo X, urged him to move to the papal capital—in other words, some time before February 1512. [8] A decade later, in 1523, Titian also included Bembo's portrait, together with those of his literary colleagues Sannazaro and Ariosto, among the many bystanders in his narrative canvas the *Emperor Frederick Barbarossa Kneeling before Pope Alexander III outside San Marco*, in the Sala del Maggior Consiglio in the Doge's Palace (destroyed by fire in 1577). [9]

The present portrait, in which Bembo wears the red biretta and cape of a cardinal, must have been painted between March 1539, the date of the official proclamation of his elevation, and May 30, 1540, the date of a letter sent by Bembo in Rome to his friend Girolamo Querini in Venice. In the letter Bembo asks Querini to thank Titian for the gift of the "second portrait" of him, which he has just received, and adds that although he had intended to pay the painter for it, he would instead find another way of adequately returning the favor. [10] On the reasonable assumption that the portrait was made from life, David Alan Brown pointed out that the date of

the portrait could be narrowed down to the seven-month period between March 1539 and Bembo's departure for the papal capital in October. [11] In the past the phrase "second portrait" has presented scholars with a problem of interpretation, since Titian's only other extant portrait of Bembo, that in Naples (fig. 3), clearly shows him older; the lost portrait mentioned by Vasari had been painted nearly 30 years earlier and is unlikely to be the implied "first" portrait. But as recently pointed out by Matteo Mancini, a mediocre portrait in the Prado, Madrid, is almost certainly an exact copy of Titian's "first" portrait [fig. 4]. [12] Indeed, the fact that the features and turn of the head are identical to those of the Gallery's portrait implies that the original of the "first" portrait, now lost, was painted only months before March 1539, and that Titian used the existing design as a basis for the "second" portrait, in which the robes of a knight of Malta were exchanged for those of a cardinal. It now appears possible, therefore, that instead of being painted from life, Titian painted the present portrait after Bembo's departure for Rome, perhaps in the early months of 1540, before sending it off to reach the sitter by May.

Further circumstantial evidence confirming that both these portraits were painted in the brief period 1538 to 1540 is provided by the relative length of Bembo's beard. Up to 1532, as shown by Belli's medal (fig. 1), Bembo was clean-shaven. In a letter of 1536, Benedetto Varchi in Venice wrote to Benvenuto Cellini in Rome that Bembo was letting his beard grow. [13] In his autobiography Cellini recalled that when he visited Bembo in Padua in 1537, he wore his beard short, "in the Venetian fashion." [14] But in a mosaic of 1542 signed by Francesco and Valerio Zuccato (Bargello, Florence) [fig. 5], Bembo's beard flows down his chest, [15] and it is even longer in the late portrait in Naples. The date of the last, much-damaged picture is not known; but if taken from life, it must have been painted either during Bembo's north Italian journey of 1543 or when Titian visited Rome in 1545–1546, a year before the sitter's death at the age of 76. [16] (Konrad Oberhuber argued on stylistic grounds that the Washington portrait dates from Titian's Roman visit, but this is to ignore the external evidence. [17]) In addition to the very early lost portrait, Giorgio Vasari mentioned a portrait by Titian of Bembo "after he had been made cardinal"; [18] but it is impossible to say to which of the surviving two Vasari was referring, or indeed, whether he knew yet another lost portrait, recorded in a number of engravings. [19]

Unlike the more contemplative image in Naples, in which the aged Bembo appears almost like an oriental magus, the present portrait shows him as a still-vigorous 69-year-old, his features alert with intellectual energy and his pose and gesture

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suggestive of rhetoric and debate. As pointed out by Peter Burke, it may be no coincidence that the outstretched hand, with the palm facing upward, corresponds to the gesture recommended by Quintilian for the beginning of a speech, in Book 11 of his much-consulted *Education of the Orator*. [20] Presumably commissioned to celebrate his elevation as cardinal of the Roman church, the portrait may be regarded as a re-elaboration of Raphael's canonical *Portrait of a Cardinal* of circa 1510–1511 (Museo del Prado, Madrid). At the same time, it conveys the exceptional authority that Bembo had attained as supreme arbiter of Latin and Italian literary style.

Peter Humfrey

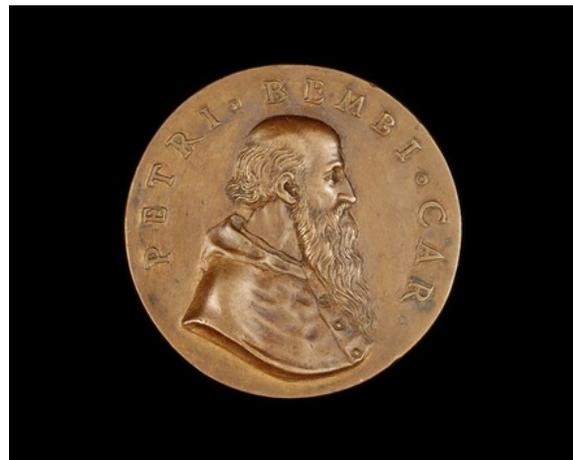
March 21, 2019

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## COMPARATIVE FIGURES



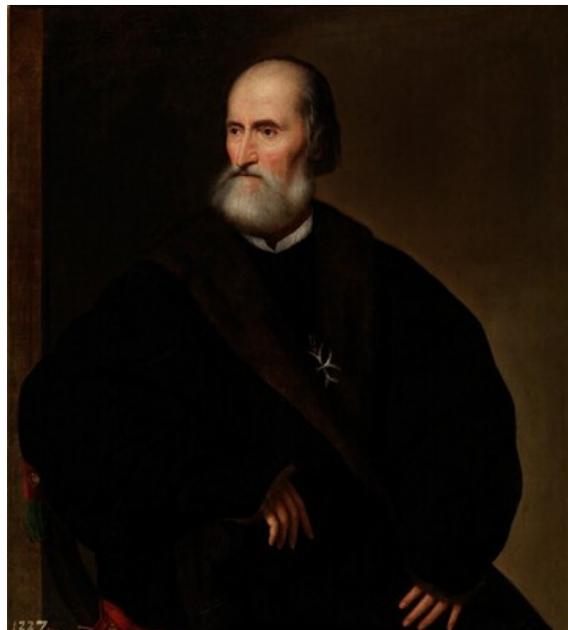
**fig. 1** Valerio Belli, *Pietro Bembo, 1470–1547, Cardinal 1538* [obverse], probably 1532, bronze, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Samuel H. Kress Collection



**fig. 2** Italian 16th Century (Attributed to Benvenuto Cellini), *Pietro Bembo, 1470–1547, Cardinal 1538, Venetian Philologist, Poet and Belletrist* [obverse], 1537/1547, bronze, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Samuel H. Kress Collection



**fig. 3** Titian, *Portrait of Cardinal Pietro Bembo (1470–1547)*, 1545, oil on canvas, Museo Nazionale di Capodimonte, Naples. Scala / Ministero per i Beni e le Attività culturali / Art Resource, NY



**fig. 4** After Titian, *Pietro Bembo as Prior of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem*, first half of the 16th century, oil on canvas, Museo Nacional del Prado. © Photographic Archive Museo Nacional del Prado



**fig. 5** Valerio Zuccato, *Portrait of Pietro Bembo*, 1542,  
mosaic, Museo Nazionale del Bargello, Florence

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## NOTES

- [1] National Gallery of Art, Samuel H. Kress Collection, 1957.14.979.a. John Graham Pollard, *Renaissance Medals*, vol. 1, *Italy*, National Gallery of Art Systematic Catalogue (Washington, DC, 2007), no. 441.
- [2] National Gallery of Art, Samuel H. Kress Collection, 1957.14.1015. John Graham Pollard, *Renaissance Medals*, vol. 1, *Italy*, National Gallery of Art Systematic Catalogue (Washington, DC, 2007), no. 562. For recent surveys of portraits of Bembo, see Davide Gasparotto, “La barba di Pietro Bembo,” *Annali della Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa*, ser. 4, quaderni 1–2 (1996): 183–206; and Debra Pincus, “Giovanni Bellini’s Humanist Signature: Pietro Bembo, Aldus Manutius, and Humanism in Early Sixteenth-Century Venice,” *Artibus et Historiae*, no. 58 (2008): 98–99.
- [3] See Francesco Rossi, *Accademia Carrara, Vol. 1: Catalogo dei dipinti sec.*

XV–XVI (Milan, 1988), 303, no. D8. For a survey of portraits of Bembo, see Carol Kidwell, *Pietro Bembo: Lover, Linguist, Cardinal* (Montreal, 2004), 391–393; Susan Nalezyty, *Pietro Bembo and the Intellectual Pleasures of a Renaissance Writer and Art Collector* (New Haven, 2017), 74–86.

- [4] For Bembo's biography, see Carlo Dionisotti, "Bembo, Pietro," in *Dizionario biografico degli italiani*, ed. Alberto Maria Ghisalberti (Rome, 1966): 8:133–151; Carol Kidwell, *Pietro Bembo: Lover, Linguist, Cardinal* (Montreal, 2004). For his literary achievement, see Giancarlo Mazzacurati, "Pietro Bembo," in *Storia della cultura veneta, Vol. 3, Pt. 2: Dal primo Quattrocento al Concilio di Trento* (Vicenza, 1980), 1–59.
- [5] [Marcantonio Michiel], *Notizie d'opere di disegno pubblicate e illustrate da D. Jacopo Morelli*, ed. Gustavo Frizzoni (Bologna, 1884), 44–63. English translation in Robert Klein and Henri Zerner, *Italian Art, 1500–1600: Sources and Documents* (Englewood Cliffs, NJ, 1966), 25–28. For Bembo's collection, see also Jennifer Fletcher, "Marcantonio Michiel: His Friends and Collection," *The Burlington Magazine* 123 (1981): 461–462; Sabine Eiche, "On the Dispersal of Cardinal Bembo's Collections," *Mitteilungen des Kunsthistorischen Instituts in Florenz* 27 (1983): 353–359; Irene Favaretto, *Arte antica e cultura antiquaria nelle collezioni venete al tempo della Serenissima* (Rome, 1990), 103–107; Clare Robertson, "Cardinal Pietro Bembo," in *The Dictionary of Art*, ed. Jane Turner (New York and London, 1996), 3:698; Rosella Lauber, "La collezione Bembo," in *Il collezionismo d'arte a Venezia: Dalle origini al Cinquecento*, ed. Michel Hochmann, Rosella Lauber, and Stefania Mason (Venice, 2008), 252–254; Guido Beltramini, Howard Burns, and Davide Gasparotto, eds., *Pietro Bembo e le arti* (Venice, 2013), 223–504; Guido Beltramini, Davide Gasparotto, and Adolfo Tura, eds., *Pietro Bembo e l'invenzione del Rinascimento* (Venice, 2013), 302–347; Susan Nalezyty, *Pietro Bembo and the Intellectual Pleasures of a Renaissance Writer and Art Collector* (New Haven, 2017), 103–182.
- [6] See Martha Wolff, in John Oliver Hand and Martha Wolff, *Early Netherlandish Painting*, National Gallery of Art Systematic Catalogue (Washington, DC, 1986), 193–201.
- [7] See Pietro Bembo, *Prose e rime*, ed. Carlo Dionisotti (Turin, 1960), nos. 19 and 20. Quoting these lines, Carlo Ridolfi, *Le maraviglie dell'arte, ovvero Le vite de gl'illustri pittori veneti, e dello stato*, ed. Detlev von Hadeln (Berlin, 1914), 1:73, also claimed that Bellini painted an early portrait of Bembo himself, but as pointed out by Hadeln in his annotation to this comment, it seems to have constituted a misunderstanding of Vasari's mention of the portrait of Bembo's beloved. Ridolfi's claim has sometimes been used in support of the view that Bellini's *Portrait of a Man* (Royal Collection, Hampton Court), evidently dating from the first decade of the 16th century, represents Bembo. For a skeptical reaction, see John Shearman, *The Early*

*Italian Pictures in the Collection of Her Majesty the Queen* (Cambridge, 1983), 43. For recent arguments in favor of the identification, see Debra Pincus, "Giovanni Bellini's Humanist Signature: Pietro Bembo, Aldus Manutius, and Humanism in Early Sixteenth-Century Venice," *Artibus et Historiae*, no. 58 (2008): 98–99, 102; the issue is also debated in David Alan Brown, "Bembo and Bellini," in *Pietro Bembo e le arti*, ed. Guido Beltramini, Howard Burns, and Davide Gasparotto (Venice, 2013), 309–327; and in Lucy Whitaker, "Bembo in Focus: A Fair Conclusion?" in *Pietro Bembo e le arti*, ed. Guido Beltramini, Howard Burns, and Davide Gasparotto (Venice, 2013), 329–338.

- [8] "Essendo chiamato a Roma dal Bembo, che allora era segretario di papa Leone X, et il quale aveva già ritratto," Giorgio Vasari, *Le vite de' più eccellenti pittori, scultori e architettori* (1568), ed. Rosanna Bettarini and Paola Barocchi (Florence, 1987), 6:160. Titian boasted of his invitation to Rome in his address to the Council of Ten in May 1513: see Joseph Archer Crowe and Giovanni Battista Cavalcaselle, *Titian, His Life and Times* (London, 1877), 1:153. This early portrait is possibly identical with one described as "A Picture of Torquato Bembo a famous Poet pal 6 & 5 Titian" in an inventory probably of the collection of Bartolomeo della Nave in Venice, and bought for the Marquess of Hamilton in 1638. See Ellis Waterhouse, "Paintings from Venice for Seventeenth-Century England," *Italian Studies* 7 (1952): 15, no. 25; Simona Savini Branca, *Il collezionismo veneziano del Seicento* (Padua, 1965), 63. Clemente Gandini implausibly attempted to identify this lost early portrait with Titian's *Portrait of a Man* in the Statens Museum for Kunst, Copenhagen; more recently, Davide Gasparotto has tentatively identified it with a portrait attributed to Titian in the Musée des Beaux-Arts, Besançon. See Clemente Gandini, in *Tiziano, le lettere*, ed. Clemente Gandini from materials compiled by Celso Fabbro (Cadore, 1977), notes to pls. 24–25; and Davide Gasparotto, in *Pietro Bembo e l'invenzione del Rinascimento*, ed. Guido Beltramini, Davide Gasparotto, and Adolfo Tura (Venice, 2013), 208–209.
- [9] Francesco Sansovino, *Venetia città nobilissima et singolare* (1581) . . . *Con aggiunta di tutte le cose notabili della stessa città, fatte et occorse dall'anno 1580 fino al presente 1663 da D. Giustiniano Martinioni* (Venice, 1663), 334; Carlo Ridolfi, *Le maraviglie dell'arte, ovvero Le vite de gl'illustri pittori veneti, e dello stato*, ed. Detlev von Hadeln (Berlin, 1914), 1:157.
- [10] "Renderete parimente grazie a M. Tiziano del dono del mio secondo ritratto, il qual Ritratto io volea scrivervi come io veduto l'avessi, che gli fosse pagato, come era conveniente. Ora, che la sua cortesia vuole che io gliene resti ubbligato, così sarà, e farò un dì alcuna cosa anco io per lui." Pietro Bembo, *Lettere*, ed. Ernesto Travi (Bologna, 1993), 4:308.
- [11] David Alan Brown, in *Titian, Prince of Painters* (Venice, 1990), 238.

- [12] Matteo Mancini, “L’uso della copia del trivial pennello e l’attualità cronologica nella ritrattistica di Tiziano,” in *Tizian versus Seisenegger: Die Portraits Karls V. mit Hund. Ein Holbeinstreit*, ed. Sylvia Ferino-Pagden and Andreas Beyer (Turnhout, 2005), 138–142; for this issue, see also Sergio Marinelli, “Pietro Bembo nella storia della pittura,” in *Pietro Bembo e le arti*, ed. Guido Beltramini, Howard Burns, and Davide Gasparotto (Venice, 2013), 475; Susan Nalezty, *Pietro Bembo and the Intellectual Pleasures of a Renaissance Writer and Art Collector* (New Haven, 2017), 78–82. Giulio Coggiola, “Per l’iconografia di Pietro Bembo,” *Atti del Reale Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti* 74, pt. 2 (1914–1915): 484, 493, unconvincingly argued that the present portrait and that in Naples are contemporary, and that the latter is the “second” mentioned in the letter of 1540. In the English edition of their biography of Titian (1877), Crowe and Cavalcaselle had already plausibly surmised that the Gallery’s picture, which they saw in Palazzo Barberini, was the one mentioned in Bembo’s letter; in the Italian edition, however (1878, pp. 422–423), they proposed that it was the Naples version instead. See Joseph Archer Crowe and Giovanni Battista Cavalcaselle, *Titian, His Life and Times* (London, 1877), 1:417–419; 2:28–29; Joseph Archer Crowe and Giovanni Battista Cavalcaselle, *Tiziano: La sua vita e i suoi tempi* (Florence, 1878), 2:422–423.
- [13] Giovanni Bottari, *Raccolta di lettere sulla pittura, scultura ed architettura scritte da’ più celebri personaggi dei secoli XV, XVI, e XVII* (Milan, 1822), 1:14–16.
- [14] *Opere di Baldassare Castiglione, Giovanni della Casa, Benvenuto Cellini*, ed. Carlo Cordié (Milan and Rome, 1960), 700–701.
- [15] But if Suida was correct in attributing the design of the mosaic to Titian, it cannot have been taken from life. Bembo wears a similarly long beard in his portrait as a bystander in Vasari’s *Paul III Distributing Benefices* of 1546 (Palazzo della Cancelleria, Rome), and in the posthumous portrait bust by Danese Cattaneo, carved for the monument to the cardinal in the Santo in Padua (in situ). See Wilhelm Suida, “New Light on Titian’s Portraits, II,” *The Burlington Magazine for Connoisseurs* 68 (1936): 281–282.
- [16] See most recently M. Utili, in *Titien: Le pouvoir en face* (Milan, 2006), 172–173.
- [17] Konrad Oberhuber, “La mostra di Tiziano a Venezia,” *Arte Veneta* 44 (1993): 74–82.
- [18] Giorgio Vasari, *Le vite de’ più eccellenti pittori, scultori e architettori*, ed. Rosanna Bettarini and Paola Barocchi (Florence, 1987), 6:168: “Ritrasse Tiziano il Bembo un’altra volta, cioè poi che fu cardinale.” Similarly, Ridolfi says that Titian painted a portrait of Bembo “in old age” (“nell’ultima età”). Carlo Ridolfi, *Le maraviglie dell’arte, ovvero Le vite de gl’illustri pittori veneti, e dello stato*, ed. Detlev von Hadeln (Berlin, 1914), 1:192.

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[19] A third portrait by Titian of Bembo as a cardinal in old age, this time showing him standing in profile and with a very long beard, is the source of the standard engraved image of him. The original supposedly still belonged to his descendant Cornelia Gradenigo in 1815, and to the Putnam Foundation, San Diego, between c. 1955 and 1965. See Giulio Coggiola, "Per l'iconografia di Pietro Bembo," *Atti del Reale Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti* 74, pt. 2 (1914–1915): 498–503; Harold Wethey, *The Paintings of Titian* (London, 1971), 2:83, 154 cat. X–11.

[20] Peter Burke, *The Historical Anthropology of Early Modern Italy: Essays on Perception and Communication* (Cambridge, 1987), 157–158; Peter Burke, "Il ritratto veneziano del Cinquecento," in *Pittura nel Veneto: Il Cinquecento*, ed. Mauro Lucco (Milan, 1999), 3:1100.

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### TECHNICAL SUMMARY

The original, medium-weight, plain-weave fabric was last relined in 1943, and its tacking margins have been cropped. The off-white ground is thinly applied, and examination with infrared reflectography at 1.5 to 1.8 microns [1] has not revealed any underdrawing. Minor pentimenti can be seen with the naked eye: the cardinal's hat, for example, was previously nearly 1 centimeter wider along all the contours and had a broader and more rounded peak. Both of his shoulders were altered, with the profile of that on the right raised by nearly 1 centimeter. There are also some changes in the fingertips, which were originally placed slightly farther to the lower right. The x-radiographs reveal a large white area under the sitter's head and upper torso, which are also marred by traction crackle. This suggests that Titian repainted this area.

The paint surface is somewhat abraded, giving a misleading effect of smoothness and lack of finish, although the arm at the lower right does appear always to have been unresolved and without detail. Darkened repaint can be seen strengthening the hair, beard, contours of the cape, fingers, and palm.

Peter Humfrey and Joanna Dunn based on the examination reports by Sarah Fisher and Joanna Dunn

March 21, 2019

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## TECHNICAL NOTES

[1] Infrared reflectography was performed with a Santa Barbara Focalplane InSb camera, fitted with an H astronomy filter.

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## PROVENANCE

Probably commissioned by the sitter, Cardinal Pietro Bembo [1470-1547], Padua and Rome; by inheritance to his son, Torquato Bembo [1525-1595].<sup>[1]</sup> probably (Ferrante Carlo [1578-1641], Rome), and acquired from him before 1631 by Don Fabrizio Valguarnera [d. 1632], Rome.<sup>[2]</sup> Leone Galli; acquired 1636 by Cardinal Antonio Barberini [1608-1671], Palazzo Barberini, Rome; by inheritance to his nephew, Maffeo Barberini, Principe di Palestrina [d. 1685], Rome; by inheritance to his son, Urbano Barberini, Rome;<sup>[3]</sup> still in the Barberini collection, Rome, c. 1904-1905;<sup>[4]</sup> Elia Volpi [1858-1938], Florence; sold 1905 to (Colnaghi's, London and New York), on joint account with (M. Knoedler & Co., New York); sold 1906 to Charles M. Schwab [1862-1939], New York;<sup>[5]</sup> (his estate sale, Parke-Bernet Galleries, New York, 3 December 1942, no. 32); purchased by Stephen Pichetto for the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, New York;<sup>[6]</sup> gift 1952 to NGA.

[1] In his final testament, drawn up in 1544, Bembo left his entire art collection to Torquato, and instructed him to integrate the objects then in Rome with the bulk of the collection in Padua. For about the next twenty years it remained complete; but thereafter Torquato began to dismantle it, sending important parts of it back to Rome for sale in 1581 and 1583. See Sabine Eiche, "On the Dispersal of Cardinal Bembo's Collections," *Mitteilungen des Kunsthistorischen Instituts in Florenz* 27 (1983): 353–359. Perhaps Titian's portrait was sold from the Bembo collection around this time.

[2] As pointed out by Jeremy Wood, "Van Dyck's Cabinet de Titien: The Contents and Dispersal of His Collection," *The Burlington Magazine* 132 (1990): 681 n. 9, the picture is very likely to be identical with the portrait of Bembo by Titian acquired by the Sicilian nobleman Don Fabrizio Valguarnera from the dealer Ferrante Carlo before 1631. The portrait is mentioned twice in the documents relating to Valguarnera's trial for theft in that year: first in an inventory of his possessions ("Il Ritratto di Monse Bembo è di mano di Titiano è quell'istesso che hò detto di sopra

d'haver compro da Ferrante de Carolis"); and second in Carlo's testimony to the court ("Un'ritratto dicono del Bembo di mano di Titiano grande dal mezzo in su' del naturale"). See Jane Costello, "The Twelve Pictures 'Ordered by Velasquez' and the Trial of Valguarnera," *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes* 13 (1950): 273, 276.

[3] According to an inventory of Cardinal Barberini, the picture was acquired on 20 November 1636 from Leone Galli. See Marilyn Aronberg Lavin, *Seventeenth Century Barberini Documents and Inventories of Art*, New York, 1975: 41 no. 334: "Uno in tela con cornice di noce alto pmi cinque in circa un retratto di un Cardinale mano Chredosi della prima maniera de Titiano." Despite the vagueness of the description, which fails to identify the sitter, the portrait is clearly identical with the one of Bembo listed in subsequent Barberini inventories. These include Cardinal Antonio's inventories of 1644 (Lavin 1975, 166 no. 232) and 1671 (Lavin 1975, 295 no. 71), and the inventory of his bequests of 1672 (Lavin 1975, 345 no. 230), according to which it was inherited by his nephew. The portrait duly appears in the posthumous 1686 inventory of Maffeo's legacy to his son (Lavin 1975, 409 no. 342). The evidence of the seventeenth-century Barberini inventories published by Lavin disproves the attempted identification by Wethey of the picture with a portrait of a cardinal by Titian that had been acquired for the family by Bernini before 1631; see Harold Wethey, *The Paintings of Titian*, 3 vols., London, 1969-1975: 2(1971):83.

[4] According to the Getty Provenance Index, the painting is recorded in a 1730 inventory of Cardinal Francesco II Barberini (p. 35, no. 218): "3695 Un Ritratto del Cardle. Bembo a sedere alto pmi 5, largo pmi 4 incirca, con barba longa, e libro nella mano manca, con cornice liscia dorata, si dice mano del Titiano [attribution crossed out] in cattivo stato 50." The painting is still recorded in the Barberini collection by Oskar Fischel, *Tizian: Des Meisters Gemälde*, Stuttgart [u.a.], 1904: no. 72, and by George Lafenestre and Eugène Richtenberger, *La Peinture en Europe. Rome: Les musées, les collections particulières, les palais*, Paris, 1905: 157.

[5] Details of ownership by Volpi, Colnaghi, and Knoedler, and the Schwab purchase date, are according to the Getty Provenance Index and the M. Knoedler & Co. archives, the latter courtesy in 2002 of Edye Weissler, Knoedler archivist and librarian (see the e-mail of 12 September 2002, in NGA curatorial files). The painting is in Colnaghi's private ledgers, and was Knoedler's London number 3828

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and New York number 10755. The Knoedler archives citation reads "4/30/06, stock no. 10755, Titian Cardinal Bembo." See also M. Knoedler & Co. Records, accession number 2012.M.54, Research Library, Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles: Sales Book 8, 1900 November-1907 April, page 332, copy in NGA curatorial files.

[5] According to the Getty Provenance Index; Pichetto was the Kress Foundation's curator and conservator.

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### EXHIBITION HISTORY

1920 Fiftieth Anniversary Exhibition, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, 1920, unnumbered catalogue.

1946 Recent Additions to the Kress Collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington, 1946, no. 826.

1990 Tiziano [NGA title: Titian: Prince of Painters], Palazzo Ducale, Venice; National Gallery of Art, Washington, 1990-1991, no. 31, repro.

1996 Treasures of Venice, Szépművészeti Múzeum, Budapest, 1996, unnumbered catalogue, repro.

2013 Pietro Bembo e l'invenzione del Rinascimento, Palazzo del Monte di Pieta, Padua, 2013, no. 6.1, repro.

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