

## Franks Forages No 23A.

### The Isabella Portrait.

Isabella of Portugal possibly by Miguel de la Cruz, active 1630-60. (After Titian).



I have been asked if there is a connection between Isabella of Portugal (portrait in the Library) and the Lucy family. I don't think there is! I can find no biographical details on Miguel de la Cruz but apparently he copied many of Titian's works, several of which are in National Trust



properties. (He was sent by Charles I to Madrid to copy the Titians). The original by Titian (above left) now hangs in the Prado museum in Madrid and was painted in 1548, nine years after Isabella's death. Her features would have been copied from an earlier portrait of Isabella and her husband by Titian copied by Rubens. The Library portrait (above right) shows variants from the original, chiefly the addition of the crown. It is painted on oak rather than canvas and possibly copied from an engraving by Pieter de Jode. A crown and cipher on the back of the painting shows that it was once owned by Charles I and hung in the Privy Gallery at Whitehall. It was bought by George Lucy 'at Mr. Stanley's sale' in 1835 for £23.10s.6d<sup>1</sup>.

Isabella was the wife of Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor whom she married in 1525. She died in 1539 during the birth of her sixth child. Charles was devastated and wore black for the rest of his life and commissioned the portrait from Titian who had painted several portraits of the court of Charles V. He later became court painter to Philip II. One portrait was sent to England, which proved useful in Philip's suit for the hand of Queen Mary I<sup>2</sup>.

Titian (Tiziano Vecellio) was regarded as the leading painter of the 16<sup>th</sup> century Venetian School of the Italian Renaissance, being very versatile and equally adept with landscapes, portraits, mythical and religious subjects. The brown-orange colour was named after him<sup>3</sup>.

*Frank Storr*

Notes.

1. <http://www.nationaltrustcollections.org.uk/object/533873>

2. [https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=24wcpBPmNQAC&pg=PA53&lpg=PA53&dq=titian+portrait+of+philip+II+sent+to+england&source=b&ots=hXa4VJm3ta&sig=h9rVNPN2sdmu9ORDx\\_bmK0TO-](https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=24wcpBPmNQAC&pg=PA53&lpg=PA53&dq=titian+portrait+of+philip+II+sent+to+england&source=b&ots=hXa4VJm3ta&sig=h9rVNPN2sdmu9ORDx_bmK0TO-)