The Gleaners

By Jean Francois Millet

One of the best known and best loved paintings, now in the Louvre, by that master of the Barbizon School. Painted in 1856 during a difficult year of illness and poverty, the picture aroused a storm of controversy among critics. Finally a wealthy merchant purchased it for the modest sum of $400. In 1889, when the fame of Millet was established, for $60,000 the picture passed into the hands of Mme. Pommery, who later generously presented it to the Louvre.