



(Kupferstichkabinett, Berlin; ex coll. Willibald Imhoff; Emperor Rudolph II; Andréossy; Firmin-Didot)

Yet Lippmann's Paris adventure was not over yet. The Firmin-Didot sale was still in full swing when the acquisition of the Posonyi-Hulot collection had already been secured, and Lippmann had no intention of completely giving up on what the market had to offer. Ultimately, he was able, not least through collaboration with various dealers, to acquire some of the things that had brought him to Paris in the first place. Among them was arguably the greatest and most moving drawing among Berlin's holdings today, Dürer's portrait of his elderly mother. Like all the best curators, Lippmann had simply followed that sacred principle of art museums once so perfectly articulated by Andrew Robison: "When the smoke clears, make sure you have the pictures."

