'Pax ?vobiscum' - The forger's story

by Tom Gallagher
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I opened up this past weekend's edition of the Financial Times and noticed a curious headline about a "forger." It quickly became apparent that writer was doing an in-depth piece on the faux Jesuit priest "donating" fake paintings to museums.

"One morning last September, a visitor arrived at the Paul and Lulu Hilliard University Art Museum in Lafayette, Louisiana. ... His name was Father Arthur Scott, he was dressed in the outfit of a Jesuit priest with a Society of Jesus lapel pin, and he bore a gift.

A few weeks before, Father Scott had sent a letter postmarked Michigan to the museum, an elegant institution attached to the University of Louisiana. His mother, an art collector from Philadelphia, had died, and his sister Emily was still in Paris sorting out the estate, he wrote. His mother had left a number of paintings, including a pastel drawing by Charles Courtney Curran, which he wanted to donate. He planned to return with others and the family was also likely to make a financial donation.

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