$(f) \bigcirc (in) \bigcirc (in)$ BUSINESS **SPORT** HISTORY **FIRST REPORT** THEFIRSTNEWS "I must have been inspired" Joseph Conrad Krakow researcher says Victoria's secrets: from Poland she's solved part of a and beyond mystery surrounding "last News Leonardo' portrait CULTURE f p p qCULTURE Kamila Urzędowska STUART DOWELL DECEMBER 19, 2023 named one of the most promising rising stars of European cinema VIDEO: Kamila Urzędowska, who received international acclaim for her role as Jagna in the hand-painted animation film Chłopi (the Peasants) based on the book of the same name by Władysław Reymont becomes the eighth Pole to receive the distinction. Independent art history researcher Katarzyna Woźniak (left) has been probing the fate of Leonardo da Vinci's Bianca portrait (right) for more than a decade. courtesy of Katarzyna Woźniak Recent research into a portrait by Leonardo da Vinci that spent up to 500 years in Poland before stunning the art world when it reemerged in the 1990s has revealed it THE FIRST REPORT: was taken from a book. Polish parliament sets up investigative Hailed as the "Last Leonardo" and the art find of the century, the mysterious 13-inchcommission on visa scandal tall portrait of a Florentine child bride with a Mona Lisa-esque smile was part of a an album titled La Sforziada when it arrived in Poland in the early 16th century. Poland, UK, Canada confirm stronger The image in chalk and ink on a calfskin vellum, and now safely stowed away in a cooperation, Tusk says after talks Swiss bank vault, hit the world's headlines when it was proved several years ago that it was a work by da Vinci. Duda says he will not allow undermining judges he appointed Now independent art history researcher Katarzyna Woźniak, who has been researching the fate of the book and the portrait for more than 10 years, has concluded that the Leonardo was removed from the book in 1810 by Izabela Zelensky says Poland has lost out due to Czartoryska, the founder of the famous Czartoryska museum in Puławy. border blockade She claims that the removal took place most probably when the book was renovated Poland's gov't dismisses Jacek Kurski and rebound at the beginning of the 19th century. from role at World Bank Exclusive **INCREDIBLE TALE OF HIDDEN** TREASURE, A BLOOD-SOAKED **CURSE, MYSTERIOUS DEATHS** AND A STUNNING OLD MANSION KEEP RUMOURS OF **BURIED TSARIST GOLD ALIVE** 

**EXCLUSIVE: TFN's Stuart Dowell** 

goes on the trail of a Polish Indiana Jones-style adventurer whose mysterious death has led to intrigue that two billion dollars of Tsarist treasure is buried in the sprawling

grounds of a manor house just outside of Warsaw. THE DEBRIEF

Praga Mon Amour

WEBBER'S WORLD

They say love don't come easy - but it does in Bielsko-Biała!

A careful analysis of the brushstrokes revealed Leonardo's natural tendency to paint Also, the subject herself, with her prematurely serious countenance, perfectly illustrated Leonardo's idea that a portrait should reflect the 'interior of the mind' of Kemp also proved that the portrait was painted during Leonardo Da Vinci's lifetime (1452-1519) and that the historical details of the painting fit the artist's biography.

World-leading da Vinci scholar Martin Kemp and Ms. Woźniak studied La Sforziada and they noticed that one page of

Hailed as the "Last Leonardo" and the art find of the century, the mysterious 13-inch-tall portrait of a Florentine child bride with a Mona Lisa-esque smile was part of a an album titled La Sforziada when it arrived in Poland in the early courtesy of Katarzyna Woźniak At that moment, the portrait and the book were separated from each other forever and ceased to share the same fortune. Since then, they have embarked on their own The portrait disappeared from the public record from that time and remained virtually unknown until it appeared at an auction on 30 January 1998 at Christie's in

New York. At the auction, it was described as an early 19th-century German Renaissance-style drawing. New York art dealer Kate Ganz bought it for just USD 21,850. Ten years later, Canadian collector Peter Silverman acquired the portrait for a similar amount on a hunch that it could be the real deal. He promptly insured it for USD 100 million. Based on this hunch, Silverman sent a digital photograph of Bianca to Professor Martin Kemp, a world-leading da Vinci scholar, so that he could see if the image bore the hallmarks of the master.

16th century.

unique journeys.

Now art history researcher Katarzyna Woźniak has concluded that the Leonardo was removed from the book in 1810 by Izabela Czartoryska (pictured), the founder of the famous Czartoryska museum in Puławy. Public domain Professor Kemp analysed the high-resolution multispectral scans made by Pascal Cotte of Paris, which allowed him to look at individual layers of the 33 cm by 23 cm image. He discovered proof that Leonardo da Vinci was its creator: the meticulous linework,

the colours, the how the woman's hair was styled behind the headband.

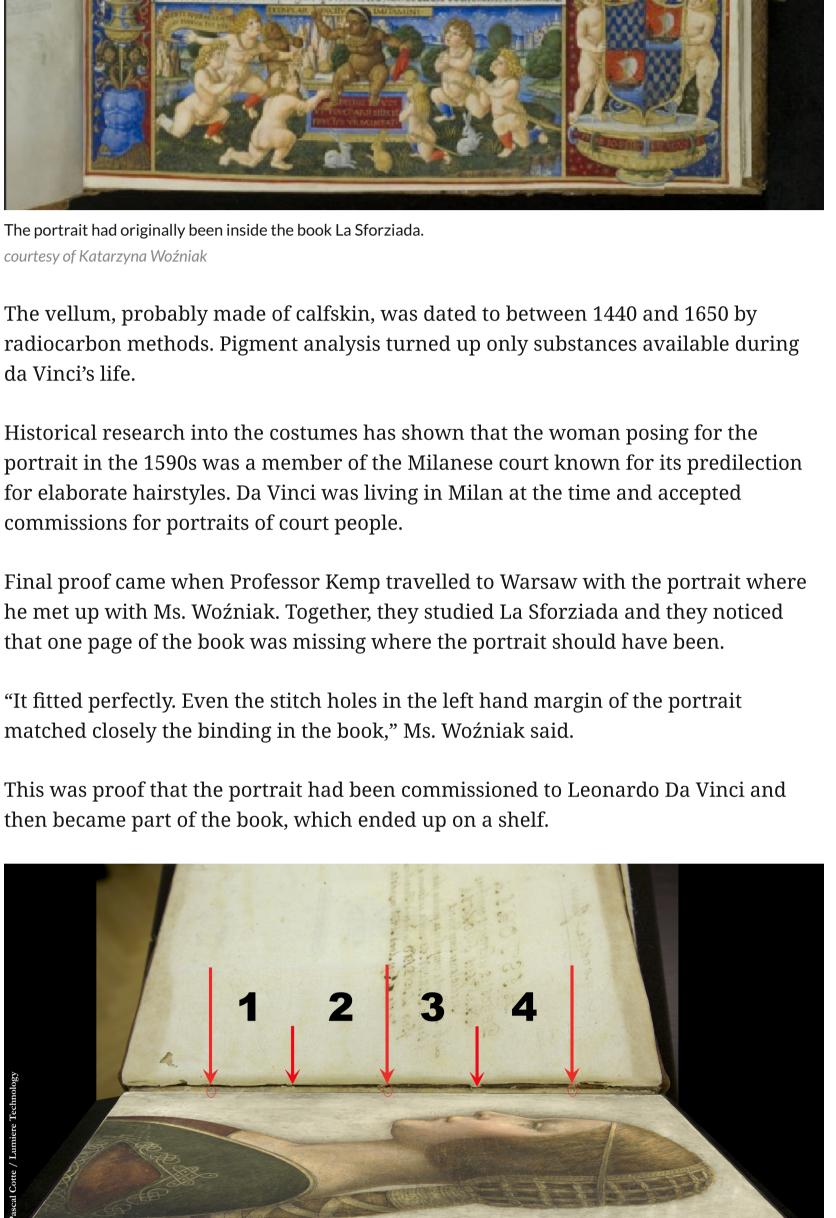
with his left hand.

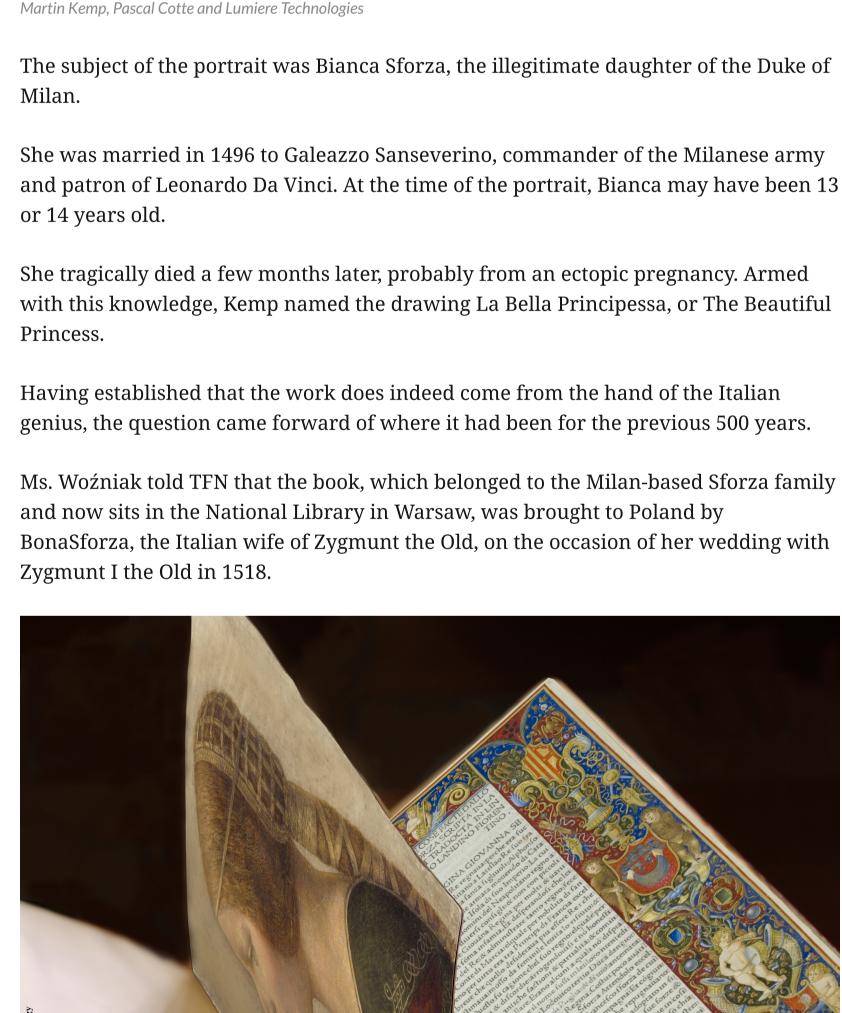
the subject.

the chia ROPRIMO DELLA HISTORIA DELLE COSE FACTEDALLO INVICTISSIMO DVCA FRANCESCO SFORZA SCRIPTA IN LA TINO DA GIOVANNI SIMONETTA ET TRADOCTA IN LIN GVA FIORENTINA DA CHRISTOPHORO LANDINO FIOREN un titta per che milleate minima a tuo pro tunuftro : to di Phi E TEMPICHE LA REGINA GIOVANNA SE conda figliuola di Carlo Re regnaua:perche era fue écquella esta guer memoria ceduta nel regno Neapolitano a Lattilao Re fuo fra tello el cuale parti di utra fanza figliuoli; Alphonfo ENTER DATRUAE

BATER DATRUAE

Inouimenti di quel regno: Impero che Giouana Regina per molti di uarii fauori di a diuerfi configli: di non con piccoli impunimenti di quel regno: Impero che Giouana Regina per molti di uarii fauori impudichi amori era caduta in foma infamia. Et desperandosi che lei femina potessi adempiere lossicio del Reiò administrare tanto regno: fece a se marito Iacopo di Nerbona Conte di Marcia: elquale per nobilita di san gue: 8: belleza di corpo: ne meno per uirtu era tra Principi di Francia excellente. Ma accorgendosi in breue che quello desideraua piu essere che marito: 8: quella non molto stimua: mosso da feminile leura lo rissuro: 8: cofinda con flilo o facteri. niencedi riptoiche imonui ái ntefa, El colistle eda altri marito: & quella non molto stimiua:mosso da feminile leuita lo rissuto: & priuo dogni administratise. Questo su cagione chel suo regno: elquale per sua natura e prono alle dissensioni & discordie: arrogendoussi e no honessi costumi della Regina: ritorno nelle antiche factioni & partialità: & cominicio ogni giorno più a stuctuare & marillare. Erano alcuni a quali no disspial Scriptori tarn giu Garaka adunque era : che (plèdore ceua la fignoria della dona:perche benche il nome fuffi in leuloro mientedi meno comidauono. Altri della cauamo che Lodouico territo Duca dangiori figliuolo di Lodouico e quale era nomato isti di liuglia: è di urolantemata della Realeffirpe daragonia: fuffiadoptato dalla Regina. Cottui poco autiti pe conforti di Martino territo fomo Pontefice: è: di Sforza Attendolo escellentiffimo Duca in militare difciplina: è: padre di Francesco sforza de cuiti ogregii facti habbiamo a scriuctre era uenuto a litti di Campagna: Et cogiuni iosi Sforza: hauca mosso gui industria. che Alphonso suffi adoptato in figgiiuolo della Reina: accio che in Napoli fuffi tal Reiche con le sue forze eò di mare è di terra potessi resistere alla possa de Franciosi. Adunque in cossi uchemette contentione debaroni è più huomini del regno: Alphonso chia mato dalla Reina in herede è compagno del regno: diuene no folo illustreri ma anchora horribile: Et el nome Catelano elquale insino a quegli rempi no era mosto noto è celebre se non a popoli maritimima iniuso è odioso comuncio a crescere: è farsi chiaro. Ma è da Lodouico è da Ssorza tanto ogni giorno più erono oppressi el Re è la Regina: che dissi dos melle proprie sorze: condusono Brascio Perugino: el quale era el fecondo Capitano di milita in Italia in quegli tepico molte honoreuoli coditioni è maxime eua la fignoria della dona:perche benche il nome fuffi in leisloro mentedi no giudi neora per se fasante





the book was missing where the portrait should have been.

Simulatin showing where the portrait had been inside the book. Martin Kemp, Pascal Cotte and Lumiere Technologies Later, it was passed on to the library of her son, Zygmunt II August. Upon his death, it became part of the extensive book collection of Jan Zamoyski, founder of Zamość. For almost a century, between 1675 and 1766, there is no mention of La Sforziada in any documentation. However, it appeared in a catalogue entry from 1766. In 1798 Zofia, the daughter of countess Izabela Czartoryska, famous for establishing the museum in Puławy, married the Lord of Zamosc, the owner of the Sforziad.

According to Ms. Woźniak, it is probable that Izabela removed the Leonardo for

of her own art collection that she owns "women by Leonardo".

The plural 'women' is highly significant," Ms. Woźniak said.

pages were trimmed.

herself from the book when it underwent rebinding, a new cover was added and the

A clue to this is a catalogue entry by Izabela in which she writes in the first catalogue

According to Ms. Woźniak, it is probable that Izabela removed the Leonardo for herself from the book when it

Its tantalising use gives rise to the idea that in addition to the famous Lady with an

Ermine, which hangs in the Czartoryska museum in Kraków, she also had the portrait

Ms. Woźniak said: "The other female portrait must have been an image of significant

value since it was mentioned in the paragraph listing the highlights of the Countess's

This was the last known mention of the portrait until it reappeared at Christie's in

In 1810, La Sforziada was transferred to Warsaw to the Zamoyski book and art

During the Second World War the library was captured by the Germans and the

archive was set on fire. Some books and documents, including La Sforziada, were

saved, as they were transferred to the basements by the librarians who risked their

underwent rebinding, a new cover was added and the pages were trimmed.

collections in the Blue Palace next to Saxon Gardens.

courtesy of Katarzyna Woźniak

of Bianca.

collection."

1998.

lives.

As to whether the portrait was in the library until World War Two and was stolen by the Germans, Ms. Woźniak remains tightlipped. "Further research may provide more details," she commented.

The subject of the portrait was Bianca Sforza, the illegitimate daughter of the Duke of Milan. At the time of the portrait, she may have been 13 or 14 years old. courtesy of Katarzyna Woźniak

According to Ms. Woźniak, the history of La Sforziada in Poland would explain why

the existence of this Leonardo portrait remained unknown in the Western European

remaining works, including La Sforziada to the National Library in Warsaw, where it

The portrait, meanwhile, emerged in the 1990s when the widow of Italian art dealer

Immediately after the war, the last heir of Zamosc, Jan Zamojski donated the

art scene for several hundred years.

has remained until today.

Gianni Marchig put it up for sale.

Polish parliament sets up

visa scandal

investigative commission on

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Ms. Woźniak has uncovered mysterious passport stamps showing that the image was in France and Switzerland and certain times in the time leading up to its auction in 1998. Woźniak plans to continue her research to uncover more about what happened to the portrait before it reemerged in the 1990s. She is also about to publish previously unknown details about the circumstances surrounding the purchase of the Lady with an Ermine by Prince Adam Czartoryski in Italy in 1798. TAGS: POLAND, PAINTING, KRAKÓW, LEONARDO DA VINCI, PORTRAITS, LAST LEONARDO, LA SFORZIADA, KATARZYNA WOŹNIAK Share: (f) (p) (in) YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE:

after talks

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