

LE GRAND PARISIEN

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Sixteenth Year

MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 1911

No. 779



THE MONA LISA IS STOLEN FROM THE LOUVRE WITHOUT ANYONE REALIZING IT.

THE MONA LISA DISAPPEARS FROM THE LOUVRE

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THE MONA LISA DISAPPEARS FROM THE LOUVRE

AN ITALIAN CARPENTER STEALS THE MONA LISA FROM THE MUSEUM IN BROAD DAYLIGHT

THE ROBBERY, ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS EVER IN THE ART WORLD, PROMPTED THE ABSURD ARREST OF ARTIST PABLO PICASSO

WHEN:
AUGUST 21,
1911

WHERE:
THE LOUVRE,
PARIS,
FRANCE

WHO:
VINCENZO
PERUGGIA

LOOT:
THE MONA LISA
AKA
LA GIOCONDA

OUTCOME:
PERUGGIA SPENT ONLY ONE YEAR AND 15 DAYS IN PRISON. HE WON THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE BY TREATING THE MASTERPIECE WITH RESPECT WHILE IT WAS IN HIS POSSESSION.

PLANNING THE ROBBERY

VINCENZO PERUGGIA

Peruggia was not your typical sophisticated, art-loving, white-collar thief. He was illiterate. He was born into a humble Italian family in the Lombardy town of Dumenza and had to leave his homeland to find work in France.

His early years in Paris were difficult, forcing him to commit several minor (and disastrous!) robberies. But as time passed, his ability to use his hands helped him land a job as a carpenter.

A FORMER LOUVRE EMPLOYEE

In 1910, the Louvre hired a team of four carpenters to produce glass showcases to protect the most coveted works of art.

Vincenzo Peruggia was one of those hired to do the job, and he and his coworkers added glass panels to the *Mona Lisa*, as well as to other works of art.

THE MUSEUM'S LACK OF SECURITY

Peruggia quickly noticed how lax the Louvre's security was, and despite being no genius, he felt he would easily be able to steal one of the works without attracting attention. It was just a question of taking advantage of the privilege he had been given to work there and, of course, having a bit of luck.

LITTLE SURVEILLANCE ON MONDAYS

On Mondays, the museum was always closed to the public for cleaning and maintenance. The lack of visitors made it an ideal time to photograph the works.

Monday was also the day in the week when the Louvre had the lowest level of security, with only 10 guards watching over the museum's works. For this reason, Peruggia decided to do his "deed" on a Monday.

A HUMBLE CARPENTER MANAGED TO EXPLOIT THE FLAWS IN THE MUSEUM'S SECURITY SYSTEM



VINCENZO PERUGGIA, PERPETRATOR OF THE FAMOUS MONA LISA ROBBERY IN 1911.