

Laocoön and his Sons

The original version of the statue, with the arm incorrectly restored.

A cast of this version is on display in the Crawford art gallery.

The story of Laocoön is one of tragedy.

Laocoön was a Trojan priest of Poseidon during the Trojan war. After the war was supposedly won and the Greeks left, Laocoön tried to stop the citizens of Troy from bringing the Trojan horse into the city, rightfully suspecting that this was a trick by the Greeks.

Poseidon, enraged by Laocoön's actions, sent sea serpents to kill him and both sons.

The citizens of Troy, after seeing this, thought that the horse was a sacred object and a gift from the gods.

The statue went through many restorations and repairs over its lifetime. With the most famous one being the incorrect restoration of Laocoön's left arm.

The arm was missing when the statue was first found, so artists had to assume what position it was in originally.

Before the original was found, Laocoön's arm was outstretched, but has been fixed to be bent behind his head.

Close up on Laocoön's eldest son:



The statue of Laocoön and his sons is one of the most iconic classical statues. It has been described as "the prototypical icon of human agony."

The statue was originally housed in the Palace of Emperor Titus before it was lost and then rediscovered during the Renaissance.

Close up on Laocoön's face:



The corrected version of the statue with Laocoön's left arm in the right position.

The original statue is on display in the Vatican Museum.

