

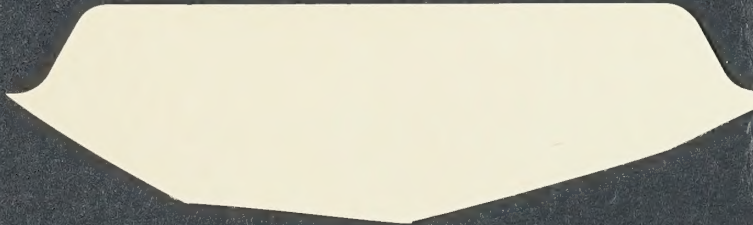
Alfred Baber Fonds

Alfred Baber Fine Arts
- Correspondence

Benson - Bookseller
1988-90

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BENSON -BOOKSELLER





Chemists Helping Chemists in Research and Industry

aldrich chemical company, inc.

Dr. Alfred Bader
Chairman

March 21, 1990

Mrs. Deborah Benson
Bookseller
River Road
West Cornwall
Connecticut 06796

Dear Mrs. Benson:

Thank you for your gracious letter of March 15th.

We come to Connecticut all too seldom, even though we have good friends at Yale. The next time we come, we will certainly try to visit with you.

I know neither the identity of the sitter nor of the artist on that beautiful painting. The latter will probably be determined in time, but the former will probably not. If only I could write like Wordsworth--I can certainly see a poem about that girl in my mind.

One of my very best friends in Milwaukee is a rare books seller, Michael Hatcher, and I will suggest to him that he visit with you when next he comes into your neighborhood. You have a lot in common.

I enclose the reproduction, and a few others you might enjoy having.

Best regards to you and your husband.

Sincerely,

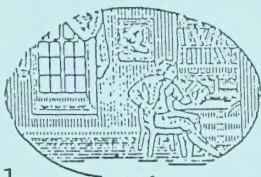
Alfred Bader
AB:mmh
Enclosures



DEBORAH BENSON BOOKSELLER
River Road
West Cornwall, Conn. 06796

Tel: (203) 672-6614
Deborah Benson Covington

Dr. Bader



Aldrich chemical
1001 West St Paul
Milwaukee Wisconsin 53223

March 15 1990

Dear Dr. Bader:

I enclose a check for 2.00 for your lovely "Coverr Girl" in poster form.

You were kind enough to send me a poster of your chemist looking surprised several years ago. But alas, you do not know WHY he looks surprised.

Now I can tell you. It is because he came to visit my chemist the multilingual husband when he was working in his laboratory. The reason for the look of surprise is that Bill was dehydrating water at the time of your chemist's visit.

I can well understand your losing sleep over that lovely young girl. But do you know who she is???? Of course you do!. She is the great great and a few more greats grandmother of Marie Curie. Who else?

We are a small one man laboratory and hence can be called only "two cent" customers of Aldrich. But you have no more loyal or appreciative customers than Bill and myself.

Should your travels to purchase art bring you anywhere near Hartford or New Haven we would certainly like

1911

to meet with you. We are about an hour and a quarter from Hartford or New Haven.

page 2.

If in New Haven please allow time to visit the Mellon British art gallery. It is a real treasure. No chemists or alchemists but a lot of very fine art and small enough to be seen in a few hours.

As a chemist you might appreciate the following story. I buy Bill one book a year which is considered rare or a collector's item. This Valentine's day it was a first appearance of a monograph by Michael Faraday with illustrations using glass tubing and the closing of their apertures.

Bill was working on some glass tubing at the time and was having difficulty sealing the tubes. He took the monograph down to the lab and using Faraday's drawing and instructions finally sealed the tubing properly.

You and your wife are always welcome here and a visit to Bill's library might very well interest you. Unlike many collectors of rare books, Bill has read every one of them regardless of date or period.

Please excuse typing. I am recovering from an emergency trachelectomy and my vision has not yet stabilized.

Thank you for founding Alrich. You have added immeasurably to the success of small laboratories like ours with your fine service, your endless array of chemicals and your superb service.

Sincerely,

Deborah Benson

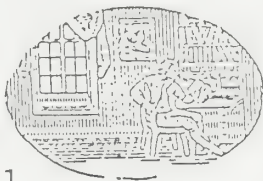
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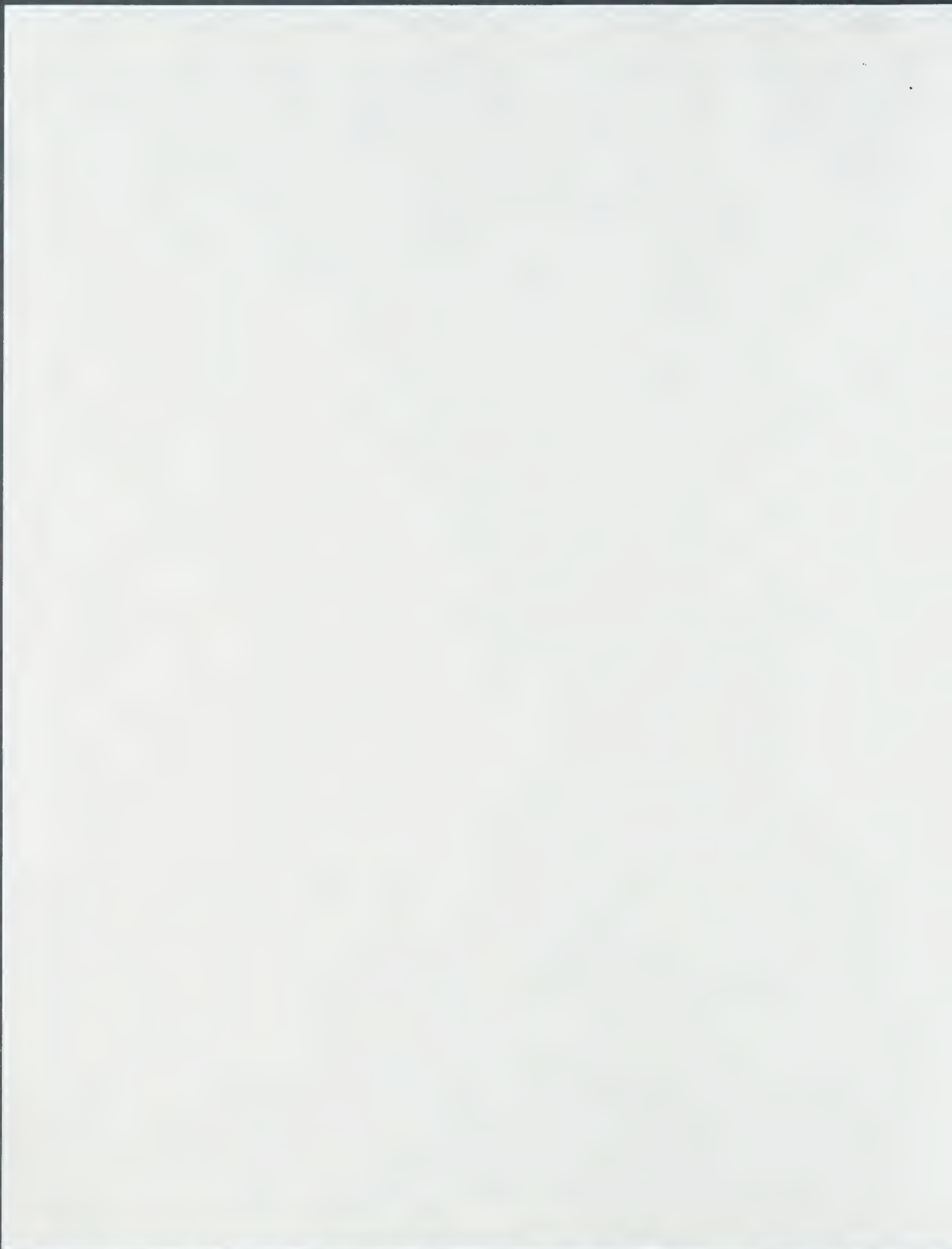
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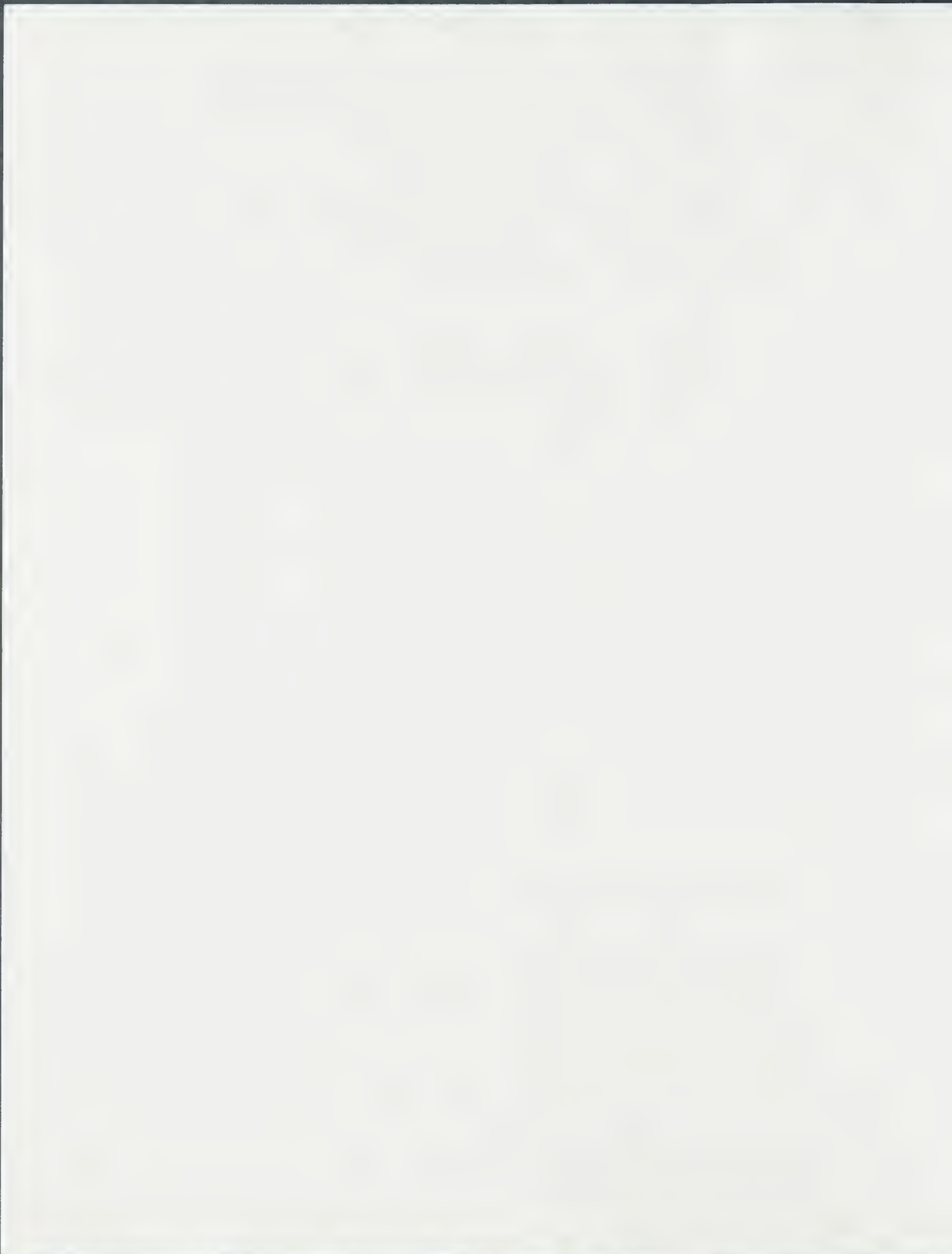
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aldrich chemical company, inc.

Dr. Alfred Bader
Chairman

February 18, 1988

Mrs. Deborah Benson
Bookseller
River Road
West Cornwall, Connecticut 06796

Dear Mrs. Benson:

Thank you for your delightful letter of February 11th, regarding my Dancing Fisherman.

The first thing I did on reading your letter was to look at your address, and note, sadly, how far away you are. I am sure that my wife and I would really enjoy meeting you.

I don't really think that the painting can have been done in America simply because I believe that it is late 17th century, and there just were no artists that good, here.

A number of readers of the Acta have suggested that this may be a New Testament subject, specifically, Jesus with his disciples.

I do hope that you will enjoy the enclosed reproduction of the first painting I ever bought; this is how I felt on reading your letter.

All good wishes to you and your husband.

Sincerely,

Alfred Bader
AB:mmh
Enclosure



DEBORAH BENSON BOOKSELLER
River Road
West Cornwall, Conn. 06796

Tel: (203) 672-6614
Deborah Benson Covington

February 11, 1988



Alfred Bader
Aldrich Chemical Company
940 West Saint Paul Avenue
Milwaukee Wisconsin 53233

Dear Dr. Bader:

When the latest issue of Aldrichemica Acta arrived I looked at the cover carefully before I opened the magazine and read the history of the painting and your "puzzle".

I am just the one to comment on this painting as I have no background in Art History, I am an inveterate museum goer but because of low vision I move slowly in order to see as much of each painting as possible and I know little of art technique.

I am a bookseller and seldom see fine original art except in the libraries of the homes where I am called in to do appraisal of books.

Therefore, since the only thing I can offer is a common interest in puzzles with no scholarly information to back it up, I thought you might be amused at my comments on the painting which came from the small gallery in Surrey.

My first reaction was that these were a group of Dutch settlers who have arrived safely on THIS SIDE OF THE POND and were doing a dance of joy at their successful journey. The trees seem to be birches which are certainly common all over New England.

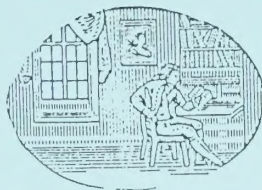
This is as far from the rendering of Dutch water as you can get; unless of course there were any Dutch painters who emigrated to this country when the Dutch settlers were coming over.

If one could only ask a geologist to look at the rock and determine



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2.

its makeup and so settle the question of where this painting was done!

My husband looks forward to each issue of Acta and has enjoyed his morning coffee all the more since I bought him your mug with the 1671 Herrschop Alchemist as the design.

I am sure you have had as much fun trying to solve the puzzle of this painting as I have in. The difference is that you KNOW what you are doing and I am working as the most rank of amateurs.

Please excuse typing errors. I cannot see the typing on the paper and often miss the letters on the keyboard.

We are only "two cent" customers of Aldrich and have been for almost 20 years but we have the highest respect for all your employees who have always been so helpful and ALWAYS so courteous.

Sincerely,

Deborah Benson

