

Alfred Baker Fonds

Correspondence

Rijksuniversiteit -  
Utrecht 1986, 1990

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Dr. Alfred Bader  
Chairman

October 3, 1990

Dr. Anne Koelega-Hoyer  
Rijksuniversiteit te Utrecht  
Faculteit der Wetenschappen  
Wilhelminapark 49  
3581 NM Utrecht  
The Netherlands

Dear Dr. Koelega-Hoyer:

The Curator of the Milwaukee Art Museum, Dr. James Mundy, has forwarded to me your letter of September 17th in which you inquired about the Curator of the Bader Collection.

I must tell you that I couldn't help smiling. Tell me: do serious collectors of paintings in Utrecht employ curators to do that which they like best, namely, to collect paintings? In any case, I look after my collection myself, with the great help of my wife.

In the article in Simiolus to which you refer, Prof. Slatkes referred to three of my paintings:

1. A painting of an old woman by Jacob van Campen, the famous architect. That painting was identified as by van Campen by Prof. van Gelder, Utrecht's ablest art historian, and I enclose a copy of the late Prof. van Gelder's letter identifying that painting.
2. A mother and child which I believe is by van Blommendael, and I enclose Xerox copy of a black and white photograph to identify it.
3. A study of a man reading of which I enclose a color reproduction. Benedict Nicolson published this in his last book as a follower of Terbrugghen, Prof. Slatkes attributed it to Blommendael, and Richard Spears at Oberlin attributed it--I believe correctly--to Bernard Keil.

Among other paintings in my collection which might be of interest to you are two, truly beautiful works, far better than the three described above, which I believe are by Jan de Bray. A color reproduction of one, a ~~small~~ portrait study of the artist's wife, and a description of the second, are enclosed.

**SIGMA-ALDRICH**

P.O. Box 355, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201 USA, Telephone (414) 273-3850, Cable Aldrichem TWX 910-262-3052, Telex 26-843, FAX 414-273-4979

bcc: Prof. E. Haverkamp-Begemann

Dr. Alfred Bader  
Chairman



January 2, 1986

Prof. Dr. W. Drenth  
Department of Organic Chemistry  
Rijkuniversiteit Utrecht  
Padulaan 8  
3584 CH Utrecht, Holland

Dear Prof. Drenth:

I am honored to have your kind letter of December 9th, addressed to the manager of Aldrich Chemie in Brussels, Max van Laere.

Unfortunately, I don't believe that it would be practical to send my collection of old master paintings from Milwaukee to Utrecht simply because such a shipment would be so very costly and very hazardous. Many of the paintings, all of them 17th century Dutch, are on thin panels and hence are very difficult to pack and ship.

The situation was somewhat easier for the exhibition at Queen's University, because the university was able to send its own truck and its own people to Milwaukee to do the packaging here and then to transport the collection very carefully to Kingston, Ontario and back.

Many thanks for your understanding, and all good wishes.

Sincerely,

Alfred Bader  
AB:mmh  
cc: Mr. Max van Laere

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Dr. Anne Koelga-Hoyer  
Rijksuniversiteit te Utrecht  
October 3, 1990  
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Beyond that, you might also be interested in two works by Solomon de Bray; one is number 1 in von Moltke's well-known article, depicting Hagar being brought to Abraham by Sarah. The second is a small round painting of an old man, a study for Abraham, formerly in the collection of Earl Spencer.

I note that Dr. Blankert is the organizer of this exhibition which you are planning. Of course I know Dr. Blankert's very competent book on Bol, and I know him as the editor of Mercury.

My oldest and best art historian friend was the late Prof. Wolfgang Stechow who wrote the introduction to The Bader Collection catalog published in 1974. His favorite painting in my collection was a work by Drost, published by Sumowski, Volume I, No. 316, who called this A Study of Isaac. I am not even certain that it depicts a man, but that is not important.

I was flabbergasted when I visited the RKD some years ago and noted that Dr. Blankert had pencilled onto the matt of the photograph of this 17th century painting that this is a fake by van Meegeren. I wrote to Dr. Blankert nine years ago and enclose copy of my letter to him. I have never received a reply; perhaps the letter got lost in the mail.

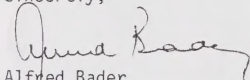
Could you please ask Dr. Blankert to reply.

I look forward to hearing from you telling me exactly what help--if any--you need, and from Dr. Blankert about my Drost.

Incidentally, I recently met a young art historian studying at your university, Drs. H. van Baarle, Dorstige Harthof 32 in Utrecht. He struck me a most enthusiastic young man who I am confident will make a really able and helpful art historian. I hope that you see him often and would like to ask you to give him my very best personal regards.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Alfred Bader  
AB:mmh  
Enclosures

bcc: Prof. E. Haverkamp-Begemann

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