











FRIDAY 22 OCTOBER 1982

H. Pot

30

An allegory of Vanity: A man in an interior, his hand resting on a skull

inscribed, on panel, unframed $18\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ in. (47 × 33cm.)

Formerly attributed to Eeckhout

HES. Lecu 31

the monogrammist "I.S."

Two Polish scholars reading in an interior

signed with initials and dated 1640 on panel 16×13 in. (40.6 × 33cm.)

32

Bartholomeus Breenbergh

Saint John the Evangelist

signed with monogram, on panel $17^{3/4} \times 14^{1/2}$ in. (45 × 37cm.)

PROVENANCE: Perhaps, the "Saint John in an ebony frame", listed in Meldert, 1653 (A. Bredius, Künstler-Inventare, The Hague, 1915, p. 1970) with Duits, London, 1965, and Kleinberger, New

York.

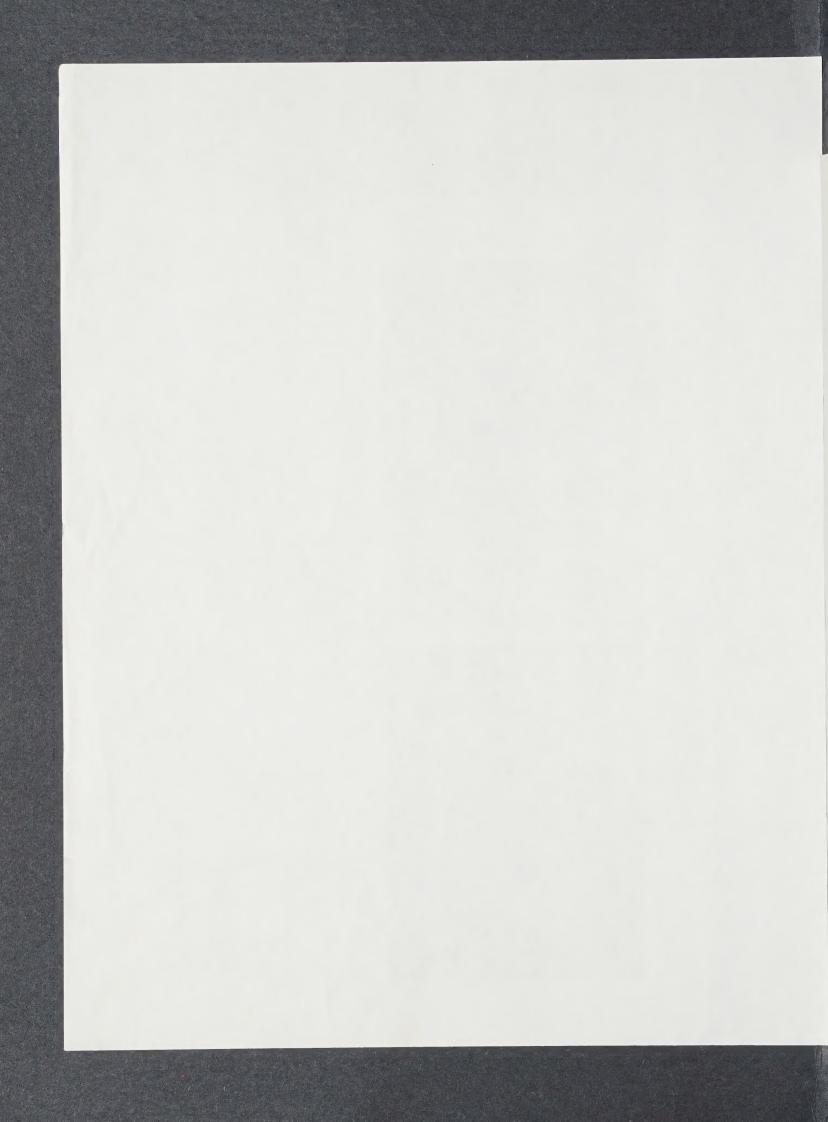
LITERATURE:

M. Roethlisberger, Bartholomé Breenbergh, in L'Oeil,

June 1966 p. 19, repr. M. Roethlisberger, Bartholomeus Breenbergh: The Paintings, 1981, p. 72, no. 178



17



Neville Orget Limited, 38 Bury Street, St. James's, London SW19 6All.

01-930 0346

DIRECTORS: N. ORGEL A. ORGEL

PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS

25th October, 1982

Dr. Alfred R. Bader, 2961 North Shepard Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211, U.S.A.

INVOICE

To:

Two Polish scholars reading in an interior Signed with initials and dated 1640 On Panel 16 x 13 in.

The head of a man - a study by A. van Noort On paper laid down on panel $15\frac{3}{4} \times 9\frac{3}{4}$ in.

£4,315.04

N. Orgel

REGISTERED IN ENGLAND No. 1316192 VAT No. 242 4488 62 REGISTERED OFFICE: CLAYTON, STARK AND CO., 18 ST. GEORGE STREET, LONDON, W.1.

Quits Lta

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LONDON, S.W.I.

01-930 5288

0

CHARLES E.DUITS (Neth) W. CLIFFORD DUITS DIRECTORS

Korte Vijverberg, 7, Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie, De Weledelgeboren Heer B.J.A.Renckens, THE HAGUE

20 March 1967

Dear Mr. Renckens,

In answer to your letter of March 17th. The photograph was taken before the cleaning of the picture and shows it in perfect condition, except for one little damage. The colouring is quite bright expecially the hat which is a beautiful red.

The picture was sold at auction as by Pieter Quast but we do not know the collection it came from, only that it was sent in from Ireland. You have also a photograph of another picture by I.S. in the collection of Dr.Schapiro. That one came from the collection of Admiral Taylor of Diss, Norfolk; we sold it to Dr. Schapiro.

your article. We have no objection to your reproducing the picture in

1/1) / 22, Yours sincerely, DUITS LTD. C/ + + JA-



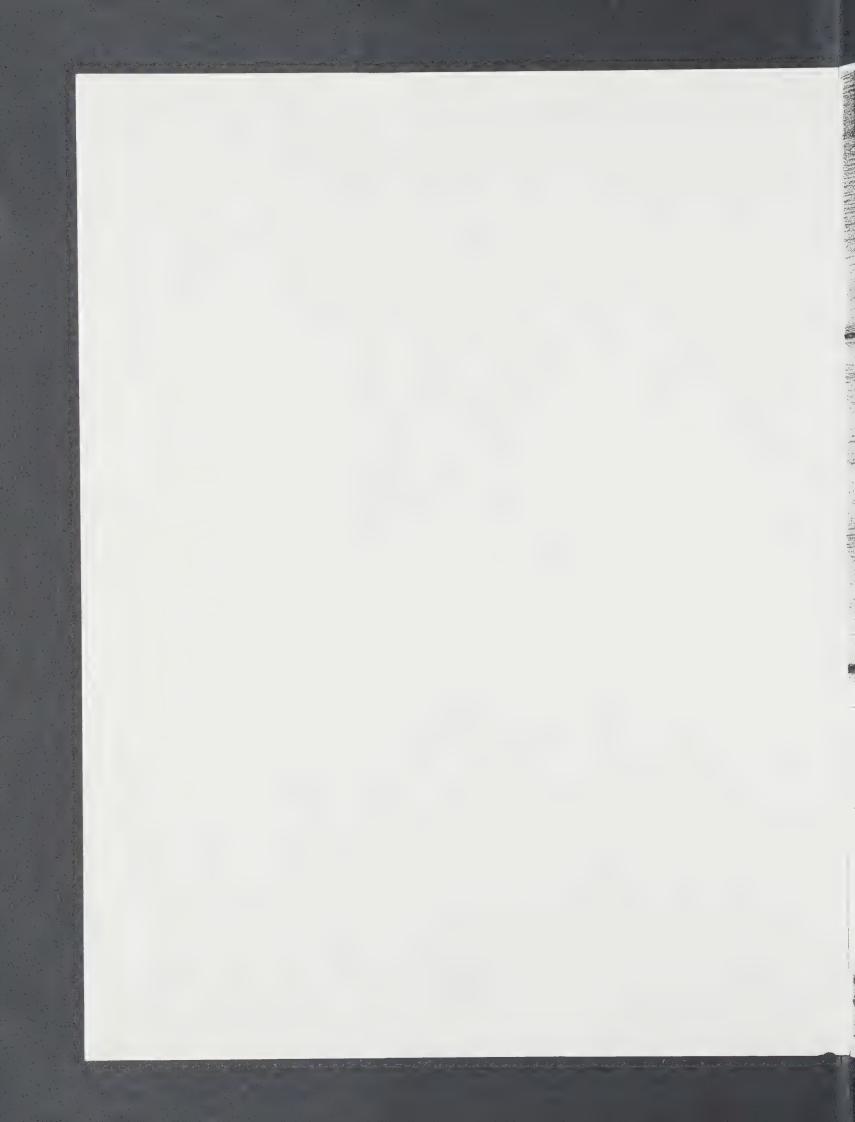
Dr. Alfred R. Bader 2961 North Shepard Avenue Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

1) ear Bier: My last letter for 1987 - with my belt wither to you and your we fer percloped is color-propelliot of the Morting of Jones, 47 Dr. petrop. o - it reminds me ef a cross between Liss and fett. Also of he St. Debathion, Italine, frist half of the 17th century. Most followers of Canadagge gambed Debattion as of he were a ballet dancer, engaging himpely. This chap is in agony, the body to realistics. Deep he teams and dirt, the gainting is in fue condition - or rature, it will be . Can you purgquist its presider . leveloped also is plusto of the Mathe IS, 1649, was cleaned. A beautiful, myster, mes well shall I love.

found reports

ge-f.a

Mec DI Sr.



Lieber Herr Doktor Bader,

vielen Dank für Ihren Brief vom 1. Januar und für die Beilagen.

Ich freue mich sehr, das schöne Bild des Meisters IS in Farben reproduzieren zu können.

Das Frauenporträt stammt tatsächlich von Lesire;ich nehme es in mein Opus auf.

Auf das Ektachrom des Gemäldes von Lievens bin ich gespannt.

Der Druck von ^Band I der Gemälde-Publikation beginnt in diesen Tagen.Mir ist es in den letzten Monaten nicht gut gegangen; so sind ^Verzögerungen beim Manuskript und bei den Korrekturen entstanden.Hoffentlich bin ich in diesem Jahr leistungsfähiger.Manchmal habe ich das Gefühl, dass es höchste Zeit ist, meine Projekte zu Ende zu bringen.

> Ihnen und Ihrer Frau für 1983 die besten Wünsche von uns beiden und viel Sammlerglück!

> > Mit herzlichen Grüssen

Ihr Wank Stuozal



Dr. Alfred R. Bader 2961 North Shepard Avenue Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

Man Bree: My last letter for 1987 - with my bett wither to you and your wife. fourcloped is color-puppeliot of the Moiling of Junes, et Dr. petrop. 10 - it receiveds me ef a cross between Liss and fetti. Also of he St. Debation, Italian, first half of the 17th century. Most followers of Canadagge painted pebatrian as of he were a ballet dancer, engaging himpelp. This chap is in appay, the body to realistic. Despite lears and dist, he painting is in fue conditor - or rature, it will be . Can you puggest its painter . leveloped also is plusto of the Martin IS, 1649, was cleaned. A beautiful, my sterious weile shall I love. foud reports

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fjec DI St.



FOGG

ART MUSEUM

HARVARD UNIVERSITY CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138-3883

March 22, 1983

Dear Alfred,

Ulrich will indeed by missed. It is not difficult to imagine how much he would have enjoyed your Maes, Nason, and remarkable Master I.S.

I am indebted to you for the good photos of the Maes and the I.S. painting. Regarding the latter, I wish I could discover who he was. To my knowledge the only published effort to identify him was made by Gustaf Sjöberg, Konsthistoriska Sällskapets Publikation, 1922, pp. 105-108; his attempt to identify him with Jacob van Spreeuwen is unconvincing. I can tell you that there is a small bust length <u>Portrait of a Man</u> at the Getty Museum (no. A70 P-13) wearing a fur cap similiar to the one seen in your painting. At the Getty it is cautiously ascribed to I.S.; in my view that picture is by him.

With fondest best wishes,

Yours ever,

ANAUL'S

Dr. Alfred Bader Aldrich Chemical Company, Inc. P.O. Box 355 Milwaukee,WI 53201





Chemists Helping Chemists in Research and Industry

aldrich chemical company.inc.

Dr. Alfred Bader Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

April 20, 1983

Professor Jan Bialostocki c/o Institute for Advanced Studies Princeton University Princeton, New Jersey 08540

Dear Professor Bialostocki:

Our mutual friend, Professor Egbert Haverkamp-Begemann, has kindly told me that you are just spending a few weeks at Princeton.

Recently I acquired a small panel by the master IS, monogrammed and dated 1649. A photograph and description of the painting are enclosed.

Dr. Eunice Kazanowski Hakala has suggested that the painting may depict John Casimir, and I enclose copy of her letter.

Do you, per chance, know from other portraits of John Casimir what he looked like, and if so, does this strengthen Dr. Hakala's suggestion?

It would be fascinating if my panel does, indeed, depict an identifiable Polish personality.

Do you have any idea who the master IS might be?

Many thanks for your help and best personal regards.

Sincerely,

Alfred Bader / AB:mmh Enclosures cc: Dr. E. Kazanowski Hakala



THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY 08540

Telephone 609-734-8000

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

April 27 1083

Dr Alfred Bader Chairman, Aldrich Chemical Company, Inc. PCSox 355 Milwoukee, Wisconsin 53201

MAY 2 1983

Dear Dr Bader,

Aldinen energines 2563 Mer

Yes, I have been in America for several months. First I was beaching at Wellesley College in Autumn term, then from the early January I have been at the Intitute for Advanced Study. Thank you for sending me the photograph of the picture by the erigmatic factor IS, dated 1649.

I an sorry my findings will be only negative, but this is also a step forward. The man is certainly not John Casimir; neither his face is sigilar to that of the Jolish king, nor the costume corresponds either to his royal status or to that of a GetLolic ecclesiestic digritary. The Vasa dynasty kings used to wear Western type costumes, especially John Casimir with his French sympathies. So this hypothesis succes to me a misunderstanding.

The picture is however a very puzzling one and I an some that there must be some specific subject behind it. The mudity of the room; the scarcity of personages; the prominence given to the chandelier with reinber-horns and two not burning candles; all this contributes to create an atmosphere of systery, to which also oriental or orientalizing figures of both figures below. For an out rate depression of being Folish, I which think rather of some more eastern or southern country. But it may also be just a phantaxy. Of course one has to think about a possibility - motential in destruction of the state to do with some Biblical subject, disguised with orientalizing parapherralis, operally that the Cristalization concerns only the costomes but not the piece of furniture nor the chardelier, connected with rather German or Detherlandish tradition. What the two wer are sting for the rore insortant one giving the book to the other, or receiving it, or is this a score of investment of the less proviment man with some special position or dignity for the provide the piece.

Will you allow me to keep the photograph ? Perhaps something will one day come to received.

I shall remain here until May 31, on which day I shall be leaving for Lurope.

Best regards,

sincerely yours far the take Jar Biklestocki



2945 Chayes Park Drive Homewood, Illinois 60430 April 14, 1983

Dr. Bader Aldrich Chemical Company, Inc. P.O. Box 355 Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201

Dear Dr. Bader,

The painting featured on the cover of Volume 16, Number 1, 1983 Aldrichimica Acta is intriguing. It looks to me as though the man with the purple and gold cloak might very well be John Casimir, ruler of Poland 1648-1668. Upon the death of his brother, Wladyslaw IV, in 1648, John Casimir was "summoned to the throne from France, where he had lived as a priest and become a cardinal..."* The book he is holding is thus probably a Bible.

The two pillars flanking the armchair are an ingenious solution to a delicate problem: how to portray the far-reaching power of the monarch while at the same time retaining an appropriate mood of clerical simplicity. The pillars serve as an intrinsic part of the chair, the three unpretentious components comprising, in effect, a formidable throne. The arms of the chair and the pillow unobtrusively suggest royal authority and ease. The room is large because it is a throne room.

What is the subject of their discussion? Horst Gerson's book, <u>Rembrandt</u>, may shed some light on the matter. On page 106, Gerson writes that Rembrandt seems to have been in touch with a sect called the Socinians, who were persecuted both in Holland and Poland for their anti-trinitarian views. The cover painting's three pillars could be interpreted as symbolizing John Casimir's devotion to the orthodox trinitarian belief, and the open book as his testimony to it.

If IS were indeed Rembrandt's student, it is likely that he too was aware of the Socinian belief.

With best regards,

Ennie Kazenovski Hakala

Eunice Kazanowski Hakala**

* "Poland", page 137, Encyclopedia Britannica, 1953 edition

**My maternal grandfather's surname was Sosinski, which translates as "of the Socinians".





Chemists Helping Chemists in Research and Industry

aldrich chemical company, inc.

Dr. Alfred Bader Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

April 19, 1983

Dr. Eunice Kazanowski Hakala 2945 Chayes Park Drive Homewood, Illinois 60430

Dear Dr. Hakala:

Thank you for your most intriguing letter of April 15 about my master IS.

As my wife said, "It's unlikely that these two men just happened to meet for lunch and the artist painted them." You may well be right in your suggestion that one of the men is John Casimir.

The greatest Polish art historian in the field of Rembrandt and his school is Professor Bialostocki at the National Museum in Warsaw, and as you will see from the enclosed, I have written to him immediately with a copy of your letter and a good photograph of my painting, to get his opinion. Possibly he knows what John Casimir looked like, and that might help.

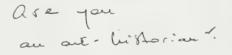
If you are right in your suggestion, it should be published, and you might like to do that.

Many thanks for your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely, Alfred Bader

AB:mmh

Enclosure







INDIANA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS Fine Arts Building Bloomington, Indiana 47405

Oct. 8, 1984

Dr. Alfred Bader, Chairman Aldrich Chemical Company, Inc. P.O. Box 355 Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201

Dear Dr. Bader:

I just returned from Minneapolis to find your letter waiting for me.

I reported our general reflectography findings to your wife, and I will send copies of our comments along with the contact sheets of the photographs we took as soon as they are ready (within several weeks, I presume). It was possible to detect underdrawing in the Pontormo: there is quite a bit of shading in the face (some visible to the naked eye, in fact). Our results seem to be more detailed than the infrared photograph which was published in the <u>Burlington Magazine</u>. I trained the camera only for a moment on the Fetti and the Terbrugghen, but long enough to realize that we were not penetrating the surface paint (either too thick, or painted on a dark background). I also examined the little Master I.S. and found that the figures were painted on top of the finished architectural background, and I took a reflectogram to document this.

Our visit to Milwaukee was made so much more pleasant by the time you took with Cathleen Hoeniger and myself, not only by inviting us to dinner but also by your obvious interest in acquiring more information about your paintings.

I have given Professor Bruce Cole and Heidi Gealt, our museum curator, Mrs. Middeldorf's comments. Heidi Gealt may contact you about your Fetti, in fact. They would welcome you in Bloomington as much as I; we will see what's possible to arrange in this regard.

Sincerely yours, Mully Faris

Molly Faries, Associate Professor



Indiana University, School of Fine Arts Infrared Reflectography Report Form (VIII.1984)

IDENTIFICATION	**********	
Artist: The Master I.S.	17th C Dutch.	
Title: Two Men in Oriental	Costume.	s &/or d:
Museum/Collection: Dr. Alfred F		
Inv. No.:	Mitwaukce.	meas.:
Studied by: M. Fairles, C. Hoeniger		
Date: Sept. 20/84.		
INFRARED REFLECTOGRAPHY EXAMINATION		
IRR Equipment:		

Scanning (thorough/selective; in studio/galleries; illumination):

Penetration (yes/no; areas and colors; condition):

Underdrawing (registration; medium and type; contours/hatching/summary or detailed/fine or heavy; pouncing, etc.):

- no traces of perspective underding

- architecture was painted first, and figures applied crestos.

Underdrawing and the paint stage(s) (changes in composition):

Special remarks:



STICHTING FOUNDATION REMBRANDT RESEARCH PROJECT

PROF. DR. J. BRUYN B. HAAK DR. S.H. LEVIE DR. P.J.J. VAN THIEL PROF. DR. E. VAN DE WETERING

> Dr. Alfred R. Bader 2961 North Shepard Avenue <u>Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211</u> U. S. A.

Amsterdam, 11 April 1989

Dear Dr. Bader

All is well that ends well -- as I intimated in a note scribbled on a Xerox I sent you earlier, your catalogue finally arrived! Thank you so much. I am very glad to have it as well as the comments you gave in your letter of March 19th, for which again many thanks.

May I in turn offer some comments?

The cover I find absolutely superb!

1A Certainly from the period, possibly even from the workshop. Being fairly familiar with the San Francisco picture I find it however difficult to agree with your statement "the best of the known versions".

6 I am somewhat sceptical about "self-portraits" -- surely in 80% of all commissioned portraits "the eyes seem to gaze at the viewer"? In the case of this interesting Lodewijk van der Helst there is no doubt in my mind that this is a commissioned portrait of an anonymous gentleman. The same is true e.g. of 48 fig. 1.

7 Fascinating and intriguing from every viewpoint!

17 Years ago we enquired after the picture, which I remembered having seen when visiting the Chicago Art Institue. However they denied having such a thing... (I did not mention Flinck's name and I still don't think the version in Vienna is by him.)

20 fig. 1 The drawing seems to be after rather than by Joos van Winghe. There is afine painting of the subject by him in the Düsseldorf museum.

27 The painting underneath appears to represent Christ shown to the people. But how does the figure of S. Agarha relate to the main scene??

28 I hope you received the copy of my 1983 article.

31B This to me is one of Sumowski's very best attributions!

37 Highly interesting. Looks Flemish c. 1650.

38 A very weak picture. Is it 17th-century?

 $rac{}{\sim}$

52 I don't see Hendrick Bloemaert here. Rather "Style of Joachim Wtewael".

I reckon to be in town in the beginning of July and would be very happy to see you then!

With best regards,

Yours,

secretariaat: c/o Ceneraal Laboratorium, Gabriël Metsustraat 8, Postbus 5132, 1007 AC Amsterdam, telefoon 020-735162



Dr. Alfred Bader Chairman

April 21, 1989



Prof. Dr. Joshua Bruyn Stichting Foundation Rembrandt Research Project Secretariaat: c/o Centraal Laboratorium Postbus 5132 1007 AC Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Dear Prof. Bruyn:

I am so happy to have your detailed letter of April 11 and to know that the catalog has finally arrived.

Please allow me to reply to your comments, point by point:

- 1A. I have the advantage of having seen both paintings, the one here and the one in San Francisco, leisurely and in good light. There is no question in my mind that the version here is superior, and I believe that you will agree when you see it. Of course, I know, as every connoisseur learns, that it is possible to be convinced and mistaken, but come and see for yourself.
- 7. I have just purchased another fine painting by the master IS, this of an old woman with a book. I will send you a photograph once the painting has been cleaned. I wish that you and your colleagues would determine the identity of this intriguing painter. When I started collecting, there were three such; but the other two, the master of the winter landscapes and the pseudo-van der Venne, have since been identified.

A historian has suggested that what is happening in this scene is a passing of the details of the Peace of Münster which was signed in 1648. He told me that copies of the treaty were passed from hand to hand in many places. This is an intriguing suggestion, but is it correct?

- 27. I wish I had the answer to your question. We will just have to wait until the painting is completely cleaned, but the cleaning is very difficult.
- 28. Thank you for sending me a copy of your 1983 article. I know very little about such 16th century paintings, and I look forward to discussing this with you personally in Amsterdam.



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

Prof. Dr. Joshua Bruyn April 21, 1989 Page Two

- 38. This is, indeed, a weak painting, although I rather think--but am not certain--that it is period.
- 52. The restorer of this painting has assured me that the monogram HB and the date 1624 are period. When Prof. Roethlisberger saw it in Milwaukee some two or three years ago, he assured me that he considers it a fine work by Hendrick Bloemaert, and he asked for a photograph for inclusion in his book on the Bloemaert family.

Of the four greatest puzzles in the exhibition, i.e., Nos. 34, 37, 54 and 55, I believe that Dr. William Robinson may have provided the answer to No. 34 (W. Drost), but I do not have the answers to the other three.

With 37, I do believe that Dujardin is a possibility; with 54, I am really undecided between Dutch and Italian and, with 55, I am inclined to think that it is Dutch, but who painted that beautifully?

I very much look forward to discussing all this with you.

Many thanks for all your help, and best personal regards.

Simeerely, luna Kaaz. Alfred Bader

AB:mmh





forming an 34.4. 121

tiever terr dr. Bader, vor venigen Vajen ven ich zus den Miderten den nach bortin surrich ekstert. Resumierend hann ich just thalten, dap it veron den in de den te khant wider in grafen strick weiter jekommen win, da wich beranders dei mukrame Arveit in ten Arthiven je kohnt hat , vo ich taklauike Dokumente agunden sube, die Echnauts his righte num im mas klover und interementer werden kassen. Bermden put is mile, dip it water demicish in whe prisen Posites, wenn milt sogar den duptraggeber, en o fim ålder som akknut spunden habe, der sich bente in to temmen preter reperdet: is how telt in he un ins camer the view suiteder son is strent : die Ruse ung les Fuilt. In Mikeyinventer les Joachim our dras, up stillt im 13. 10. 1664 in Amstylam wird in jomilde ie knuts jok en der migen ver Sorie ben : Joseph on Haris met kindeken Jose, gedsen door Hr. Gemit Ekhout". Die fats de Three's wise des heimsternamens durch den Notar ist milt ungewähnlich, und die min hein tweiter femilide Esthauts mit desem Trema vehannt ist und and strifterick mild inter acfert int, our it our ile iles, los is sich um The Ried handleit. De Name des briters spricht möglicher weise tofer, tag is sich um wien hattoliken handelt. Lite nake it lisean noch milt mehr i ber jou dens son tras in systemen binn in rommen, aber his wind show not ge un en.

the ten Heisto J.J. habe it as & denie wordinans worten a tenisse vorzuweisen. Kun tiest duises Kalers ist noch su unaktor

it konne noch en wenig remis jemäkde aus eigense Anschaucung. Immerhin konnte ich im Kalmen wir kleinen, aber interessanten dusstilling in litrester Rightmuseum Let Cathanijneconvent (Bijleel dilder hunst rond Rembrandt) une 1644 datieste "Taufe des Kämmerlings" aus ficht lich studieren. Three Hatabog, den ich noch hure vor abbreise mach Holland sailit, woper ich Jamm silv danke, habe il aus juther lich studient. Su buide haben schone Rilder ausgesucht, lebendig und anothere is go drie ben und die burnsthistoriker en Recht laran coninert, dog is in mor no & gene Aligure Fragen gibt is Antworten! Kit timen Fragen in Finterboyf in its bei main Arbeiten in Den Har ihr einen Aleenien Fleriweis isto Eport, dur mir mittei len swirt on denit, auch wenn is sich anti with um inte Alunigneit own hilt. Bu do Tur doill unor dobit iter Frieniste Gold - und fillers Amieste minerte it mit an Three late in hat. - Mr. 5 : And who was M. Fuich?" duch ich hatte mich daris ber jesundert, daß iber den Maler des "Tolian and the Angel Cooking the Fish" is vering behannt ist, sumal der Mime nun wirklich unge sidn lich und aboraus setter ist - venigstens in Amsterdam und Umjelum. It's ficturaise numbell is sich um unen tim the sus tim Morden Hollands C Fries Cand). Die the der injeque ten daque antreamen können, lebte in da L. Helph tin 17. Jahrhun dirts in Golds Amied namens van der Freych in Flurlingen, der möglicherweise im Virwandter des Malen war. An uniter der Telten deit des Namens halte ich dies für seder wider denin A. Han multe sho in den Frieris den Ar diven minut mad I wan der Fuick meden. It nabe benits nach

Lecewarden ges drie oen, vo sich die Vacef -, Acinets - und De gradonis regis to aus Harling un deute befinden. Mogelicher weise ergibt sich auf diesem Weg une Spur vor Diographie des Kalers.

To & nun ver Planung minis Amerika - Ruse in Sommer und Flerbot. Den Flug habe ich fost je un At. Ich hoffe, dop the universtanden sind, wenn ich sund dist se van Three freundlichen Erikadung Gibrauch mache und direkt ihr New Jork nach Hicksucher komme. So Filis ist je in at fin den 16. August : Bortin - Mas Jork -Milouhee: ab Birlin 10h - Ankingt New York (JFK) 1th ab Mis Join (JEKI 17"h - Andungt His succes 29th h. Beitsain worde ich his in Berlin in junstin standby - taket interestor der finalis haft Dilta oder Morti vent kungen i Guiti;reits huer 39 Tage), um humit mojeidst viele der umenin. Pus in usu den. Muis hiskungt in Miss Jork ause ich für ic. 29. 125. Septimber jegeunt, in der Hoffmuns das min his institut lost me bischeiline Untraunft or aniscirin hunn. Die Wicht haben die noch einige Tips für mich, die ich some weather will !

Fur Stattjært habe i A den Formin in Juni bereits fist jehalten, denn i A frice mich fie buide und Professor Jum overhi mider sus den!

> In to Orrprivile auf alles, was it 1824 - Sank Inno Hinge - with or uben darp gright is hore to the

> > in Manut.



2945 Chayes Park Drive Homewood, Illinois 60430 April 14, 1983

Mellul University Pro. 100.

Dr. Bader Aldrich Chemical Company, Inc. P.O. Box 355 Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201

Dear Dr. Bader,

The painting featured on the cover of Volume 16, Number 1, 1983 Aldrichimica Acta is intriguing. It looks to me as though the man with the purple and gold cloak might very well be John Casimir, ruler of Poland 1648-1668. Upon the death of his brother, Wladyslaw IV, in 1648, John Casimir was "summoned to the throne from France, where he had lived as a priest and become a cardinal..."* The book he is holding is thus probably a Bible.

The two pillars flanking the armchair are an ingenious solution to a delicate problem: how to portray the far-reaching power of the monarch while at the same time retaining an appropriate mood of clerical simplicity. The pillars serve as an intrinsic part of the chair, the three unpretentious components comprising, in effect, a formidable throne. The arms of the chair and the pillow unobtrusively suggest royal authority and ease. The room is large because it is a throne room.

What is the subject of their discussion? Horst Gerson's book, <u>Rembrandt</u>, may shed some light on the matter. On page 106, Gerson writes that Rembrandt seems to have been in touch with a sect called the Socinians, who were persecuted both in Holland and Poland for their anti-trinitarian views. The cover painting's three pillars could be interpreted as symbolizing John Casimir's devotion to the orthodox trinitarian belief, and the open book as his testimony to it.

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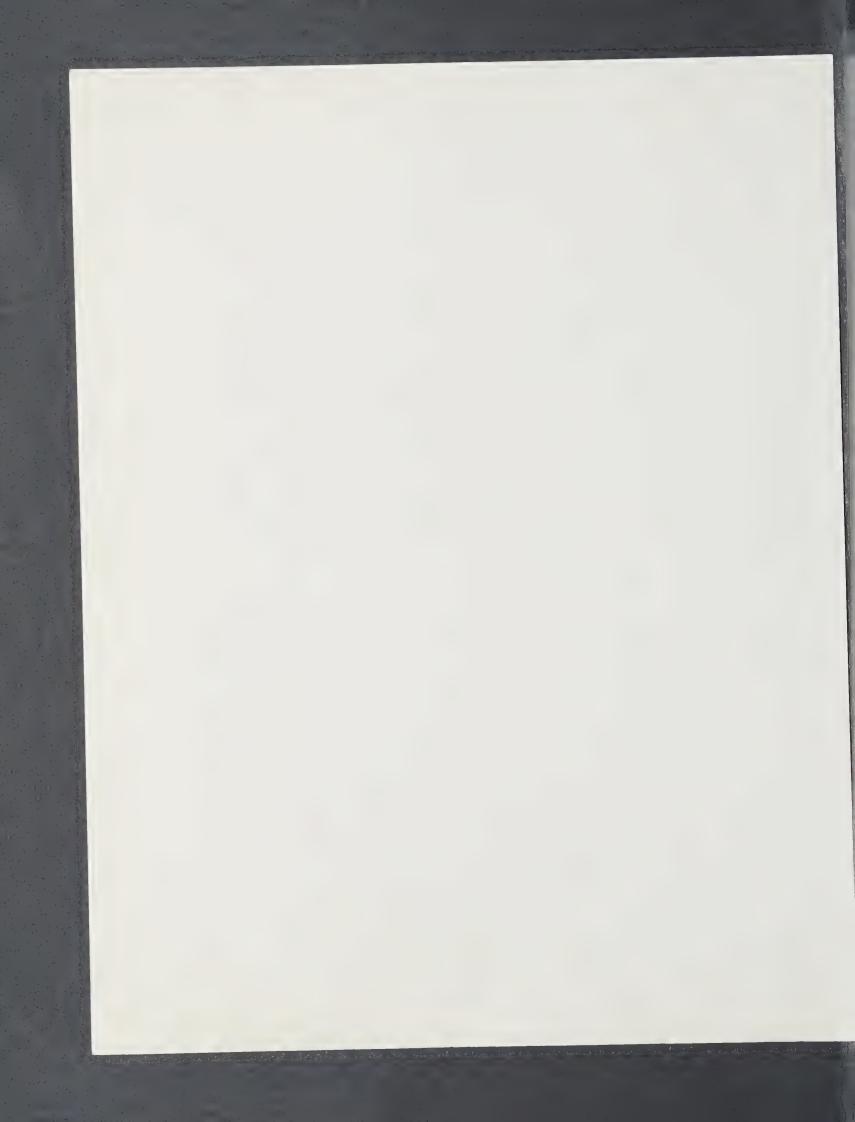
With best regards,

Eunico Kazenovski Hakela

Eunice Kazanowski Hakala**

* "Poland", page 137, Encyclopedia Britannica, 1953 edition

**My maternal grandfather's surname was Sosinski, which translates as "of the Socinians".







Prins Willem Alexanderhof 5
P.O. Box 90418
2509 LK 's-Gravenhage The Netherlands
tel. 070-3471514

From December 10, 1997 New numbers: tel. (31) 70 3339777 fax (31) 70 3339789 RIJKSBUREAU VOOR KUNSTHISTORISCHE DOCUMENTATIE NETHERLANDS INSTITUTE FOR ART HISTORY

rK

Dr. Alfred Bader Astor Hotel Suite 622 924 East Juneau Avenue Milwaukee Wisconsin USA 53202

subject Attribution of paintings reference JKO/sv/98-2355 your letter d.d. 29-9-1998

The Hague, 15 January 1999

Dear Dr. Bader,

After all the commotion stirred up by Rembrandt's mother I can at last set myself to answering your letter. As I already told you in one of our telephone conversations we my colleagues and I- will answer you in installments, the first of which you will have received by now from Mrs. De Kinkelder. As my duties in the department include among other things Rembrandt and his school, I will only deal with your paintings that belong to that category. Furthermore I am planning to do your paintings in the order of your lists A,B & C. In this letter I propose to discuss your A list, the ones you know.

The first two paintings I encounter there (C & D) you both classify as by Lievens. Judging by the photograph the portrait of the young man under D certainly could be a Lievens, although one would have to see the painting in person to be able to give a definitive judgement. It is a well known type of which Sumowski lists a few (e.g. Sumowski III, p. 1897 nr 1258 from Copenhagen). The use of light is very much in accordance with that of the master, the face having been given structure with contrasting aereas of light and dark with smooth, soft overflowing edges. It is exactly the different use of light in the old man's portrait C that makes the attribution of this painting to Lievens much more problematic. Dr. Ekkart is inclined to speak of a more southern use of light and structure in this pleasing painting. The light here forms the face in almost ondulating

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surfaces which is unlike Lievens. I can not find the right words to describe why I am reluctant to follow the Lievens attribution, but my doubts become even greater when I compare this painting to other old men by Lievens like e.g. your own Lievens painting 'Simeon in the temple' (Sumowski VI, nr. 2355). On the other hand I do not have a better suggestion.

With picture E: Dullaert I have much less difficulty, although I find Sumowski's argument (Sumowski V, nr 2041) about the similarity between the chair in Dullaert's painting in Groningen (Sumowski I, nr. 343) and the one in your collection as corroborative evidence a wee bit weak: painters freely lent each other's props and the same (kind of) chair can also be seen in paintings by e.g. Abraham van Dyck or Gerard Dou.

Sumowski's arguments to attribute painting L to Jacobus Levecq instead of Nicolaes Maes are on the other hand very strong and convincing. There is a curious interest here that I would like to ask you about. The head and the hat seem to be painted over an other previous composition (alterations by Levecq himself?), the <u>pentimenti</u> of which shine through. Did you ever have these overpaintings/alterations investigated or photographed with infrared? Or am I mistaken ?

Your Master IS painting of the old woman also does not pose any problem. A very fine example of this master's intimate artistry. A very daring composition I would say, almost Whistler's <u>Portrait of my mother</u> 'avant la lettre' with the empty background. In the little <u>Aldrichimica Acta</u> article you enclosed it is suggested that it is the artist's mother or the prophetess Hannah

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that is depicted, which is of course a possibility. But what to my mind is much more interesting is the fact that she seems to be singing. It appears to have been an uncontrolable urge of our Dutch 16th & 17th century so-called ancestors to sing, mostly the 'Souterkensliedekens'. These selfmade songs departed from a single sentence from one of the psalms [souter in old Dutch] of David on which the singer improvised in an associative way sequences based on biblical stories. Melodies seem to have been taken from popular songs and/or favourite psalm-melodies. Especially old folk were urged to sing all day, the purpose being that the aged would think all day of religious subjects so as to be prepared to the optimum on Death at any moment. Singing was also considered a good antidote to to succumbing to (idle) sleep as was of course reading the bible. Your lady seems to be doing both things almost at the same time, a very good example for all to see and to follow. It also says something about Master IS' religious affiliation, because the singing was very popular in the lower strata of society and especially in Mennonite circles and for that very same reason frowned upon by ultra-orthodox calvinists: the free interpretation of the bible of the followers of Menno Simons was of course not to the liking of the calvinistic pastors.

In your A-list there only remains the Old Scholar by G. Kneller, painting M. Compared with other scholars by his hand this would appear to be his earliest and most Dutch scholar. The one in Lübeck seems to be already somewhat more flowing and elegant, while your Rabbi is much more

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Yours sincerely,

Dept. Vof Old Netherlandish Art

Jan Kosten,

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sobre. Although my colleague of the Department of Foreign Art - under whom the painting actually resorts, Kneller being a German Englishman-, is doubtful of the contribution, I on the other hand have much less trouble with it. It would be an early Kneller reminiscent of the mature Bol, his teacher. Sumowski furthermore speaks about 'early virtuosity' in the young Kneller of which this is a good example. The attribution to 'Follower of Carel van der Pluym' in the salesrooms of Sotheby's New York in 1987 & 1988 I would reject without hesitation: Van der Pluym is much more the Rembrandt pupil and definitively a 'Kleinmeister'. And anyway, the person who attributed your painting to a <u>follower</u> of a <u>minor</u> master almost confesses, by doing so, to not having studied the picture at all: a typical rash, offhand auction decision.

Next week I plan to tackle and discuss your much more challenging B-list in a seperate letter. I hope you appreciate that all my comments are of course my personal opinion and very much open to discussion.

I include in this letter as you requested a copy of the painting <u>Rembrandt's Mother</u> that was stolen from you. I trust it is a better copy than the initial one you have from Whitfield & C°.

In the meantime I remain, with best personal regards,

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