

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE MAURITSHUIS

Newsletter Winter 2009/2010

Dear American Friends of the Mauritshuis,

Our Winter Newsletter is dedicated to the loan of a unique series of portraits to the Mauritshuis, now on display at the museum through January 16, 2011. We hope you will enjoy reading about these paintings.

EVENTS

On January 26, a dinner was organized by the American Friends to introduce Dr. Emilie Gordenker to our interested supporters and collectors, generously underwritten by our board members Eijk and Rose-Marie van Otterloo and Otto Naumann. Dr. Gordenker discussed the new building extension project for the Mauritshuis and how the American Friends could become actively involved. She also expressed appreciation for the support of the American Friends to internships to the Museum in the conservation and curatorial department.

CRAEYVANGER FAMILY PORTRAITS

The paintings are the only known series of portraits of the members of a single family, father, mother and eight children, to have survived from the seventeenth century. The series' existence was relatively unknown until it came up for auction last year. A private collection in New York has lent the works to the Mauritshuis, where they are publicly exhibited for the first time in the Netherlands.



Willem Craeyvanger and Christine van der Wart were married on 20 November 1639. He was 22 years of age, and she was likely to have been somewhat younger. As well as being a cloth merchant, Willem was also *Rentmeester*, or land agent, for the city of Arnhem and Governor of the city's guild of merchants, the Guild of St. Nicholas. The couple prospered and had a big family: six boys and two girls survived infancy. Even by seventeenth-century standards, this was a large number of children. In 1666, fate intervened. The couple went bankrupt in March of that year and their possessions were seized, with the exception of the portraits, presumably because these were of little interest to the creditors. The Craeyvanger family portraits were handed down from generation to generation for several centuries. As a result, very few people knew of their existence.



ONGOING AT THE MAURITSHUIS



At the Mauritshuis, the exhibition *On Horseback! The World of Philips Wouwerman* remains on view through the end of February. Philips Wouwerman (1619-1668) is currently considered the most successful painter of horses of the Dutch Golden Age. His paintings were eagerly sought after throughout Europe. Not only was he more famous in his own time than Rembrandt, he was also extremely productive. Although he died at a relatively young age, almost 600 paintings are attributed to him. Thirty-three of Wouwerman's paintings and ten of his drawings are on display.

As many as a third of these works are from private collections and seldom seen by the general public. A special website for this exhibition has been created and we recommend it to you:

<http://www.mauritshuis.nl/index.aspx?SiteID=100>

LOANS

Soon, Hendrick Avercamp's *IJsvermaak*, will be on loan to the National Gallery of Art for the first exhibition devoted to this artist: *Hendrick Avercamp: The Little Ice Age*. The exhibition dates are March 21 through July 5, 2010.

<http://www.nga.gov/exhibitions/avercampinfo.shtm>



We all wish you a very happy and healthy 2010 and look forward to seeing you again soon.

The Board of the American Friends of the Mauritshuis.



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