

October 25th 1979.

Steven G. H. van Hengel.

30 Saxenrodeweg
2116 V.A. Bentveld, Holland

Painting of a small boy (? girl)
holding a ball + ? golf club) dated 1595

Dear Mr. van Hengel.

This picture - presumably the same - was in Sotheby's sale of paintings dated April 2nd 1952.
• I was able to purchase it for a very small price - as the art trade doubted the authenticity of the 1595 date.

There had been a letter in Country Life of March 13th with a picture of a small girl playing golf dated 1619. I wrote suggesting that my picture predated this ? first child golfer by some 25 years.

I have a copy of my letter (the copy undated) but I think it must have

been 1953 - although 1952 might not
have been an impossibility

However I think there is little doubt
that I have the picture to which
you refer. I really have not wish
to part with it as it is in good
condition & very charming.

I usually cut out any letters of
mine appearing in "Country Life"
but if I did so I cannot find it.
• I have only one black & white photo
of the painting.

Sotheby's attribution ~~was~~ to
Johann Preutiger (I do not know
on what grounds) as the artist.

The dress is brown velvet (also hat)
the sleeves & necklace are bright red.
There is an inscription on the gold
medallion but it would need an
expert to decipher it (I think it
could ~~be~~ be done).

If you happen to be in England
any time I should be pleased to
show you the painting.

Yours faithfully
D. Garnett

(DR. D. G. GARNETT).

S.J.H. van Hengel
30, Saxenrodeweg
2116 VA Bentveld
Holland

31st October 1979

Dr.D.G.Garnett
Hill Garth
Earls Colne
Colchester, Essex CO6 2JR
England

Dear Dr.Garnett,

In this first place I would like to thank you for your letter of the 25th. It was most kind of you to write because this may bring a many year long chase to an end. In the second place I would say that my first object is not to buy the picture but to have a look at it and in this respect I am much obliged for your kind offer to come and see you and do so. If all goes well I hope to be in your area on the 3rd or 4th January next. If that is convenient I would very much like to come and see you then.

Meanwhile I am enclosing a photograph of the picture I was looking for. I am pretty sure it is / Because there are not /-it a great many pictures of the same nature of that date.

Let me further explain why I have such a particular interest in this particular painting. It may also make you look at your charming possession with different eyes. Its artistic value may not be all that great but its historic interest is quite the opposite.

In all likelihood the picture represents Henry Frederick eldest son of James I/VI born in 1593 who died at the age of 17 in 1610 from drinking a glass of cold water after some very intensive sports exercises. In the upper righthand corner you should find the words 'AETATIS 2' meaning that the boy was 2 years old in 1595, which fits the story. There is more: On the 30th August 1595 Henry Frederick was christened at Stirling Castle in Scotland. Seeing the friendly relationship between Scotland and the counties of Holland and Zeeland there was a massive embassy from the Low Countries at the christening. They came far from empty handed. The christening presents consisted of 'two fair and large cups of gold', 'a golden coffer' containing a 'letter of obligation' (bond) superscribed by the two chief ambassadors and 'divers other chief governors' assuring the Prince of an annual 'pension' of 5000 guilders a year during his lifetime (then set at £.500,- a year and representing quite a little fortune in these days), divers other precious presents (the chain and medal may well have been one of them) and a painter which they had brought along to paint his portrait. (there were no painters in Scotland in those days). The club and the ball, decidedly Dutch in design may have belonged to the presents but it may also be that they were borrowed from the painters' children because it was a wellknown technique to give children some objects to hold so as to keep them standing still while they were painted.

The painting had been hanging since many years in Holdenby House between Northampton and Rugby. In 1540 Sir Christopher Hatton later a Lord Chancellor under Queen Elisabeth and after was born in this house. James I is known to have visited it and may well have taken the picture of his dead son along on one of his visits. That James I was attached to the picture may be concluded from the fact that it was not left behind when he moved from Scotland to London. In 1646 King Charles I (Henry Frederick's younger brother) was taken from Holdenby House and removed to London, where he eventually came to such an unfortunate end, by Cornet Joyce of the Parliamentary Army.

I would very much question Sotheby's attribution of the painting to Johann Prewitzer. Although this is difficult to prove it was in all probability a work in his younger years of a painter whose name has not yet been traced but of whose work I can show you quite a few examples. I shall bring the reference material along when I come to see you. I hope to have a close look at the picture when I am with you. Personally I have little doubt as to its authenticity. It may be possible to decipher the words on the medal, I shall try and help you (the words may well be in Dutch!) I am very pleased that we have retraced this painting at last, that you enjoy having it as much as you clearly do and that it is in such a good condition. After having read this letter you may perhaps enjoy having it even more.

I would appreciate your confirming that the enclosed picture corresponds with the painting in your possession. Looking forward to meeting you and thanking you again for writing I am

Yours very Sincerely,

van Hangel



Nov. 10th. 1929.

Dear Mr. Van Kengel.

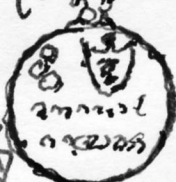
Your letter is so good English
+ I fear I cannot reply in a word
of Dutch! (so like the English!)
I expect to be here on Jan 3rd or
4th (but probably away for Christmas)
+ my wife. I hope you would be
able to have lunch (mid-day meal)
with us when you come.

The picture you enclose is
certainly an exact likeness of the
"little golfer."

However I am intrigued by the
contents of your letter + I think
there can be little doubt that the
portrait is that of Henry Frederick
son of James I/Vi.

The canvas measures 20 x 14
inches + appears to have been re-
lined.

On the top of the medallion this child
is wearing
be a device
this with two rings
below which I



There appears to
be something like
of lettering
cannot read.

your illustration cuts off
2 inches from the top & bottom of
the canvas.

Perhaps Sothebys (Bond
Street) might know where the
painting came from in 1952.

I shall look forward to
your visit early in the New
Year.

Yours very sincerely
Donald G. Farrel

S.J.H. van Hengel
20, Saxenrodeweg
2116 VA Bentveld
Holland

18th November 1979

Dr. Donald G. Garnett
Hill Garth
Earls Colne
Colchester CO6 2JR

Dear Dr. Garnett

Thank you very much for your kind letter of the 10th and your invitation to lunch, which I shall certainly avail myself of! May I suggest that I give you a 'phone call at the beginning of the New Year to let you know whether it will be the 3rd or the 4th. My plans are not quite settled yet. I am coming from Kent on that day. Coming back to your letter: I was very interested to learn that the painting is on canvas. I had always thought that it would be on a panel, the common technique at the time. Canvas was very modern. I am sorry to hear however that it may have been re-lined. Notes and signatures of painters often appeared on the back of the panel or canvas in those days and so we may have lost some data which could have been of value.

On the other hand the medal may prove of value. If, as I suspect, the medal was one of the various presents of the ambassadors from Holland and Zeeland (this type of medal was very much a fashionable present of the States to persons they valued in those times), it may give us some clue. Anyway, let us see what we can find. I shall bring a camera along to take a picture of the picture that is not as mutilated as the present one appears to be. Looking very much forward to meeting you I am very sincerely yours

Steven van Hengel



30, Saxenrodeweg
2116 VA Bentveld
Holland

26th January 1980

Tel. 023 - 24 01 69

Dr. Donald G. Garnett
Hill Garth
Earls Colne nr.
Colchester, Essex CO6 2JR

Dear Dr. Garnett,

At long last the photographer has done almost his entire job!

Let me first thank you, all be it much too late, for your very kind hospitality when I visited you early this month.

I am enclosing:

1. a black and white negative of the painting;
2. a colour print negative;
3. a colour slide;
4. a black and white picture;
5. a colour picture, sadly of poor quality. If you have it redone it will come out much better.

The black and white picture, by the way, shows quite clearly that the painting needs re-varnishing!

Kindly remember me to Mrs. Garnett. With kindest regards

I am, yours very sincerely

van Hengel

Steven J. H. van Hengel

Enclosures

per 1 april 1980

Dr. Donald G. Garnett
Halfacre
Maresfield w.
Uckfield, Sussex

after April 2nd 1980

Half Acre

Maresfield

Uckfield, Sussex

TN22 2HJ

Uckfield 2976

HILL GARTH.
ERAS COANE
COLCHESTER
COB-25R.

30.1.1980.

Dear Mr. Dan Hangel.

I thank you so much for
sending the results of your visit
to see the little Golf boy - Prince
Henry. The little 35mm transparency
is superb & couldn't be improved.
The larger photos are excellent, too,
but, as ever, not quite up to the 35mm
itself.

Mr. Dan Henderson is still very
interested in the picture & will see
it later in the year.

At the beginning of April we
move house for Maresfield in
Sussex where our house will be
the exact junction of the A22
from London & the A272 which
runs across Southern England
from Winchester - & no doubt
the little golfer will accompany
us.

I note your remarks re re-
varnishing - it will have to
wait till we get resettled.

If you happen to be in Sussex
any time we should, of course,
be happy to see you.

Yours very sincerely,
with all good wishes,

Donald G. Barnett

The Varnishing is done
& he looks brilliant.

15th December 1980

30, Saxenrodeweg
2116 VA Bentveld
Holland

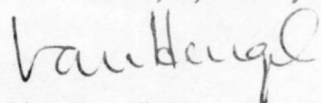
Dr.D.G.Garnett
Halfacre
Maresfield
Uckfield, Sussex

Dear Dr.Garnett,

I am sorry to have to write about the 'Holdenby Picture'. Unfortunately it is not what it was thought to be. I thought it best to send you a copy of the wording of the article which may eventually appear in 'Country Life'. I am also enclosing a photostat of the page in the Sotheby catalogue as well as a picture of the 'peat-ship medal'. It may be disappointing to find that your painting is not the original and is not a Prince of Wales. Let this be so, yours is a very good replica of 17th century date. This in itself is a curio.

With kind regards to Mrs.Garnett and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year I am

sincerely yours,



Steven J.H.van Hengel

3 Enclosures