

SHOTTESBROOKE PARK  
WHITE WALTHAM·BERKSHIRE  
Littlewick Green 2677

2nd November 1979

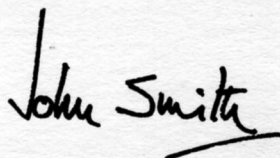
Dear Mr. van Hengel,

I was most interested to read your letter in Country Life of 25th October, and to see the photograph of the painting of a small boy with a golf club. We have a rather similar painting here, of a two year old child with a golf club. Our painting is dated 1696 and I feel sure, from the similarity of style, that your picture will prove to be of 1695 rather than 1595.

If it would interest you, I could have a photograph taken of our painting for you.

Our painting is one of a pair, the child in the other painting carrying a basket of cherries instead of a golf club.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John Smith'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long vertical line extending upwards from the 'J' and a horizontal line extending to the right from the 'h'.

Steven J.H. van Hengel Esq.,  
30 Saxenrodeweg,  
2116 VA Bentveld,  
HOLLAND.

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

7th November 1979

J.Smith Esq.  
Shottesbrooke Park  
White Waltham, Berkshire  
Engeland

Dear Mr.Smith,

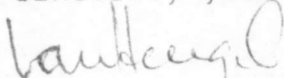
This is to thank you for your letter of the 2nd.  
It was very kind of you to write. The story about your pictures sounds very interesting. Let me begin by saying that there is absolutely no doubt as to the date, 1595, of the picture as printed in Country Life. Not only because the date is quite clearly marked on the painting but also, and even more so, because of the style of the costume of the young man and the golf implements he holds in his hands. Sartorial fashions in the 16th and 17th century changed even more rapidly than they do today. This also applied to children's clothes. If the picture in Country Life would have been painted in 1695 it would have been a very odd anachronism in every respect.

Turning to your paintings: I would much appreciate receiving a photograph of both of them. It may well be that I can provide you with a bit of background to both of them.

Children in those days were nearly always painted with an object on both hands. This made them stand more or less still while posing. For your information I am enclosing three photographs. One of them is at my home course in Zandvoort and depicts a boy and a girl, the boy holding a golf club and the girl holding a branch of cherries.

The other two belong to a set of five family portraits hanging in the Reformed Orphanage in the city of Enkhuizen. All of them were painted by an anonymous painter in 1612. The boy was then 7 and holds a club and a ball, the girl holds a basket of cherries and a bird. She was then 4 years old. Both of them were children of the Slijper family, a well known family of magistrates in that city.

As you can see not only the club and ball but also the cherries were quite popular on paintings in that period. Looking forward to hearing from you I am  
sincerely yours



Steven J.H.van Hengel

3 Enclosures

SHOTTESBROOKE PARK  
WHITE WALTHAM·BERKSHIRE  
Littlewick Green 2677

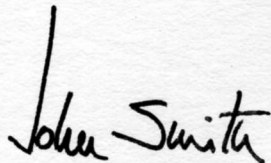
21st November 1979

Dear Mr. van Hengel,

Many thanks for your letter, by which I was much interested. I will let you have photographs of our pictures here as soon as I can. They have distinct similarities with the pictures at the Reformed Orphanage at Enkhuizen (including being painted on wood), but our pictures seem rather more carefully painted, with more detail, and they are clearly dated 1696; which rather worries me, since I had not thought about your point about clothes, but agree with it.

It would be very nice if you could come here to see the pictures yourself.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John Smith'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long vertical stroke at the beginning.

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



27th November 1979

30, Saxenrodeweg  
2116 VA Bentveld  
Holland

John Smith Esq.  
Shottesbrooke Park  
White Waltham, Berkshire  
England

Tel. 023 - 24 01 69

Dear Mr. Smith,

Thank you for your letter of the 21st. I am looking forward to the photographs. It all sounds very interesting.

There were quite a few of these children's pictures in the 17th century so it should not be all that difficult to identify them.

As it happens I may be in England (Kent) between Christmas and the New Year. If this happens and if I can find the time for it it would certainly be very interesting to come and see the pictures if convenient to you in that period. Please let me know if the time would suit you.

In the affirmative case I shall give you a telephone call in advance to make an appointment.

Sincerely yours

Steven J.H. van Hengel



SHOTTESBROOKE PARK  
WHITE WALTHAM·BERKSHIRE  
Littlewick Green 2677

(STD Code: 062 882)

11th December 1979

Dear Mr. van Hengel,

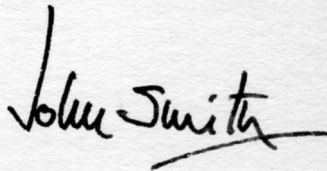
Many thanks for your letter. I shall be at home here for most of the time between Christmas and the New Year. We should very much like to see you, so do please telephone. If you get no answer from the telephone here, try 01-222 6581, which is my office.

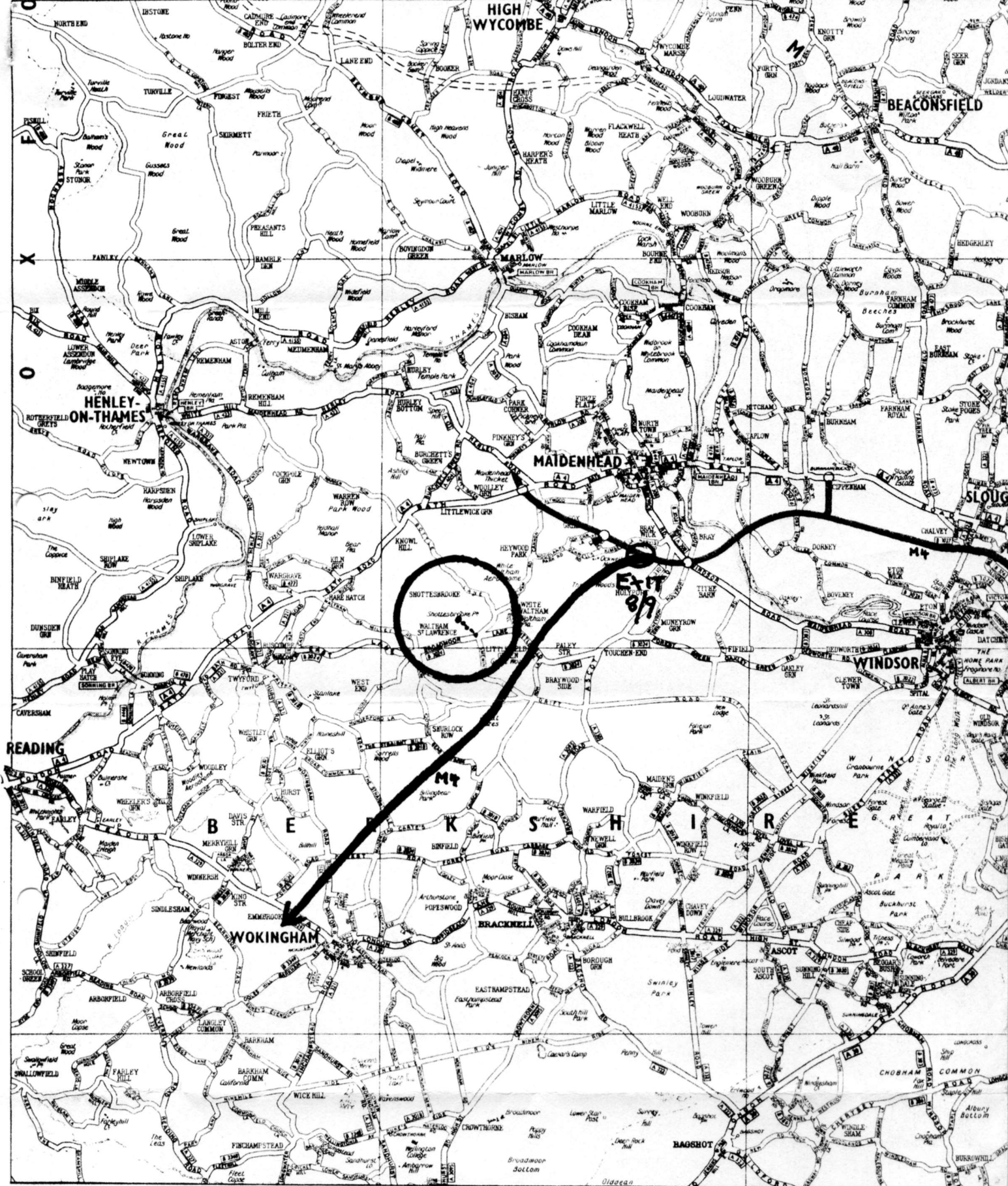
If you come by train, I can meet you at Maidenhead station (which, as you probably know, you reach from Paddington station in London). If you come by car from London, you should take the M4 - and then use the map which I enclose.

We look forward to seeing you.

Yours sincerely,

Steven van Hengel Esq.,  
30, Saxenrodeweg,  
2116VA Bentveld,  
HOLLAND.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.



# GETTING TO SHOTTESBROOKE FROM THE M4, COMING FROM LONDON

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- Take exit 8/9 marked "Henley, Oxford A423(M) Maidenhead"
- The slip road at this exit takes you up onto an elevated roundabout over the motorway
- From this roundabout take "Henley Oxford A423(M) "
- After half a mile on A423(M) take exit marked White Waltham
- This exit brings you immediately to a T junction: turn right (usually signposted to White Waltham).
- After 100 yards, at a cross roads, turn left (signposted to White Waltham)
- After 200 yards, bend right at fork (signposted to White Waltham)
- You should now be driving along an open lane, with a large arable field on your right
- After 6/10 of a mile, at a T junction, with modern houses behind a boarded fence opposite you, turn left.
- After 4/10 of a mile, in built-up area, bend left, following the main road, which takes you past airfield on your right, to White Waltham village
- Drive through White Waltham village, still on same road
- At the end of the village street, with war memorial and cricket ground ahead, bend left, keeping to main road.
- With cricket ground now on your right, keep to main road for 600 yards, and at road junction with a mass of signs, our red brick lodge with semicircle of gravel is on your right.
- Turn in here (spire visible ahead) over cattle grid, and follow the drive, past the church. Do not open the iron gate: if it is shut (which it usually is), fork right and continue with iron railings on your left.

\* \* \* \* \*



SHOTTESBROOKE PARK  
WHITE WALTHAM BERKSHIRE  
Littlewick Green 2677  
062882

21st November 1979

Dear Mr. van Hengel,

Many thanks for your letter, by which I was much interested. I will let you have photographs of our pictures here as soon as I can. They have distinct similarities with the pictures at the Reformed Orphanage at Enkhuizen (including being painted on wood), but our pictures seem rather more carefully painted, with more detail, and they are clearly dated 1696; which rather worries me, since I had not thought about your point about clothes, but agree with it.

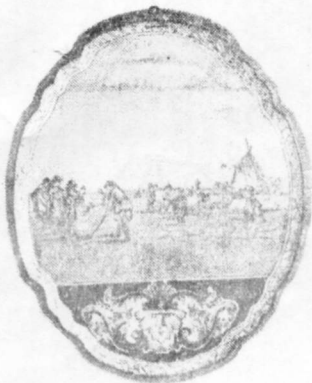
It would be very nice if you could come here to see the pictures yourself.

Yours sincerely,

*John Smith*

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





27th November 1979

30, Saxonrodeweg  
2116 VA Bentveld  
Holland

John Smith Esq.  
Shottesbrooke Park  
White Waltham, Berkshire  
England

Tel. 023 - 24 01 69

Dear Mr. Smith,

Thank you for your letter of the 21st. I am looking forward to the photographs. It all sounds very interesting.

There were quite a few of these children's pictures in the 17th century so it should not be all that difficult to identify them.

As it happens I may be in England (Kent) between Christmas and the New Year. If this happens and if I can find the time for it it would certainly be very interesting to come and see the pictures if convenient to you in that period. Please let me know if the time would suit you.

In the affirmative case I shall give you a telephone call in advance to make an appointment.

Sincerely yours

Steven J.H. van Hengel



Royal & Ancient Golf Club  
St. Andrews

1596

photograph presented to the Club  
by Andrew Lang in 1910

omgeving Adriaen van der Linde  
(wateraam Leenwarden vóór 1595, Bolsward  
sinds 1605, overleden Bolsward 1609)

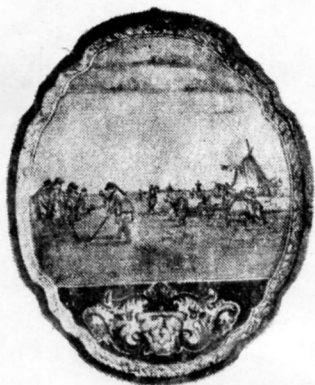


Royal & Ancient Golf Club  
St Andrews

1596

photograph presented to the Club  
by Anders Lang in 1910

omgeving Adriaen van der Linde  
(waarnaar Leenwarden vóór 1595, Bolsward  
sinds 1605, overleef Bolsward 1609)



30, Saxonrodeweg  
2116 VA Bentveld  
Holland

26th January 1980

Tel. 023 - 24 01 69

John Smith Esq.  
Shottesbrooke Park  
White Waltham, Berkshire  
England

Dear Mr. Smith

I am sorry that it took so long to write you.  
The photographer took quite a bit of time in  
developing the films I had made.  
Let me begin by thanking you and Mrs. Smith for the  
very kind reception you gave me when visiting you  
in December.

Please find enclosed:

1. A colour photograph of the 'golf Boy';
2. A colour photograph of the 'Cherry Boy';
3. A black and white photograph of the Cherry Boy;
4. Two negatives from which black and white photographs  
of both pictures can be made.

I have made some enquiries into the medal which the  
Cherry Boy is wearing. It seems that this is a 'Wederdopers  
Daalder (Baptist Crown)'. The coins were struck when a rather  
anarchist Baptist movement came into being around the  
middle of the 1500's.

Incidentally, did you notice that the two boys must have  
been brothers? The Golf Boy in 1596 wears the costume which  
the Cherry Boy, his elder brother by two years, wore in  
1594 and obviously had grown out of in 1596!

Kindly remember me to Mrs. Smith,  
very sincerely yours

Steven van Hengel

Steven J.H. van Hengel

Enclosures



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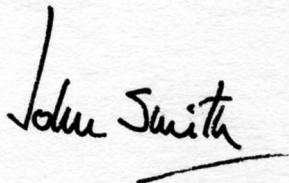
6th February 1980

Dear Mr. van Hengel,

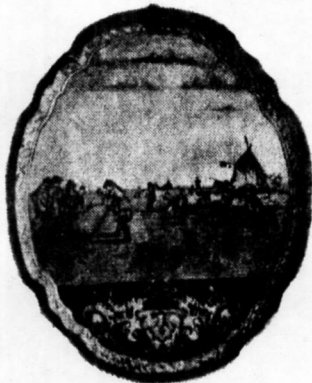
Thank you so much for your letter,  
and for sending those quite excellent  
photographs of our two pictures, which  
we are very pleased indeed to have.  
We are most grateful to you.

We very much enjoyed your visit  
here.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long vertical stroke for the letter 'J' and a horizontal line underlining the name.

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



27th February 1980

30, Saxenrodeweg  
2116 VA Bentveld  
Holland

John Smith Esq.  
Shottesbrooke Park  
White Waltham, Berkshire  
England

Tel. 023 - 24 01 69

Dear Mr. Smith,

Thinking back to your kind reception in December I have been doing some research on the paintings of the 'Cherry Boy' and the 'Golf Boy' brothers of 1594 and 1596. I am by now pretty satisfied that they were painted by Adriaen van der Linde.

This painter, hailing from Brughes in Belgium, moved to Leeuwarden in Friesland before 1595. He was married to Janneke Farnese from Tiel in Guelderland. In 1605 they moved to Bolsward in Friesland where he died on the 8th April 1609. The inscription on the tomb of the couple in Bolsward reads: Ao 1609 den 8. Aprilis is gherust Mr. Adriaen van der Linde, schilder van Brugge, hier begraven. (On the 8th of April came to rest Master Adriaen van der Linde, painter from Brughes, buried here.)

From a lawsuit in 1595 touching on the supply of panels and picture-frames it may be seen that he was a well-known portrait-painter, because strangers came to sit for him. Also he was well known in the County of Holland where he probably painted as well.

A child's portrait, very similar to your 1594 one, is in the Fries Museum at Leeuwarden. It is also on a panel, bearing the date 160.. in the painting and measuring 91x62,5 cms, almost identical with both your paintings: 91,5x67 and 96,5x67 cms.

Van der Linde certainly had a taste for that size of panels. Apart from the abovementioned ones there is another one dated 1592, measuring 96x69,5 cms and depicting a 2 year old child of the Frisian Sirtema van Grovenstins family and some others measuring 96x80(1595), 96x80(1595) and 93x73(1596). It may well be that these were the panels of the court case in 1595.

Your paintings clearly date from his Leeuwarden period. It is however difficult to say whether the two brothers were Frisians or from Holland or elsewhere, seeing van der Linde's fame.

Details about Adriaen van der Linde may be found in: Dr. A. Wassenbergh, De Portretkunst in Friesland in de zeventiende eeuw (The art of portraying in Friesland in the 17th Century) published by N.V. Uitgeversmaatschappij De Tijdstroom at Lochem in 1967, pages 19-21.

I am writing these details to you since information on Adriaen van der Linde is hard to come by. Friesland was an isolated part of the world at that time.

Kindly remember me to Mrs. Smith and your son.

Yours very sincerely *Steven van Hengel*

Steven J.H. van Hengel