

TITLE: Tulip Fever

AUTHOR: Deborah Moggach

GENRES: Fiction, Amsterdam 1630

POSSIBLE THEMES AND Art objects:

Catholicism and Calvinism and Protestantism and its symbolism (and “iffy” but possibly interesting theme)

1. Lady at her Toilet anonymous artist 1650-1680 (72.78)? Painting in hallway on 3rd floor
2. Delfware made by East Indian Co. next to the previous painting (39.31.1,2,)
3. River Landscape with a Ferry Solomon van Ruysdael 1656 (45.9)
4. Portrait of Lucas van Voorst Paulus Moreelse 1628 (88.64.1)
5. Portrait of Catharina van Voost Paulus Moreelse 1628 (88.64.2)
6. Still Life Pieter Claesz 1643 (45.10)
7. Still Life Mignon Abraham 1669 (87.4)
8. Portrait of a Young Girl 1650- (72.78)
9. Portrait of a Lady Gabriel Metsu 1667 (92.16)
10. The Denial of Saint Peter Gerrit van Honthorst 1620 (71.78 0
11. Festive Peasants before a Panorama Philips Wouwerman 1653 (81.107)
12. Portrait of a Burgomaster Bartholomeus vander Helst 1660 (35.7.106)
13. Lucretia Rembrandt van Rijn 1666 (34.19)

14. River Landscape with Pellecussen Gate near Utrecht Jan vanGoyen 1648 (83.84)
15. Fishing Vessels Offshore in a Heavy Sea Ludolph Backhuysen 1684 (82.84)
16. The Gamblers Henrik Terbrugghen 1623 (60.17)

Unbelievable, but true, we do not have one single tulip or flower painting up in the Dutch collection, presently.

A wonderful book. It is a well-written story, a historical romp through the tulips in Holland during the 1630's. However, that's not all. The wealthy Dutch burgormaster, Cornelis Sandvoort decides to have his portrait painted with his wife, as a reflection of their status in Amsterdam. Sophia, the virtuous wife turns out to be quite the scheming little shrew as she finds herself in complex plots of raising money to live with her true love in a far-away land. The young virile portrait painter, Jan has stolen Sophia's heart, but can't afford the life that she is accustomed to. The premises of the story is believable but it becomes humorous to the ridiculously sublime when the current new trend of Holland, tulipmania hits Sophia and the hero.

This story gives us a deeper look at the Dutch culture; religion, patriotism and the new-found wealth of the middle class in Holland during the 17th century. On top of that, it is really a delightfully good read! This will be a delightful tour.

Antra Pakalns

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