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**Portrait of Andries de Graeff  
(1611–1678), Burgomaster of  
Amsterdam**

Gerard ter Borch the Younger  
(Zwolle 1617 – 1681 Deventer)

1673

oil on canvas

39.3 x 29 cm

unsigned but inscribed and dated (incorrectly)  
by a later hand, upper left corner: “Andries de  
Graeff Ixiii Jaer M.D.C.LXXIII”

GB-106

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Andries de Graeff (1611–78) was one of the wealthiest and most influential men in the seventeenth-century Dutch Republic.<sup>[1]</sup> He was the son of Jacob Dircksz de Graeff (several times burgomaster of Amsterdam) and Aeltge Boelens; through marriage and political affiliation he was allied with the powerful Bicker family, as well as with the Republican anti-Orangist *raadpensionaris* (Grand Pensionary) Johan de Witt (1625–72). In 1646 Andries married his niece, Elisabeth Bicker van Swieten (1623–56), and had three children by her. Especially after the death of his brother Cornelis in 1664, Andries was a dominant force in Amsterdam politics: he served seven terms as burgomaster between 1657 and 1672, and was a member of the *vroedschap* (city council) between 1665 and 1672. The change in government brought about by the closing of the First Stadholderless Period and the appointment of Willem III as stadholder of the Netherlands in 1672 signaled the end of De Graeff's political career.

Around 1670 De Graeff built an impressive house on Amsterdam's fashionable Herengracht, which he filled with the fruits of his assiduous collecting and patronage of the arts, including ceiling paintings by Gerard de Lairesse (now in the Vredespaleis, The Hague).<sup>[2]</sup> De Graeff was instrumental in commissioning decorations for Amsterdam's new Town Hall, and in 1660 helped organize a strategic gift of artworks to King Charles II of England. Alongside his commitment to the visual arts, De Graeff was also Maecenas to the poets Joost van den Vondel, Jan Vos, Caspar Barlaeus, and Gerard Brandt.

De Graeff was portrayed on several occasions by some of the most sought-after artists of the era: in paintings by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606–69) from 1639 (**fig 1**) and Govaert Flinck (1615–60) from the early 1650s, in a drawing by Jan Lievens (1607–74) from about 1657 (**fig 2**), and in a marble bust by Artus Quellinus (1609–68) made in 1661 (**fig 3**). Painted in 1673, Gerard ter Borch the Younger's portrait is the last of these, depicting the subject at the age of sixty-two or sixty-three. De Graeff is dressed plainly, in a black doublet and breeches and wearing a simple flat linen collar; with both hands, he pulls close around him the black cloak draped over his shoulders. On the table at right is a slim book, closed securely with ribbons and seals. Despite the sober attire, Ter Borch's portrait of De Graeff hints discreetly at some personal vanity: the man's luxuriantly full and glossy brown wig is ill matched to his mustache and carefully clipped *mouche*, which reveal the silvery hair of a man in his sixties.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Comparative Figures



**Fig 1.** Rembrandt van Rijn, *Portrait of Andries de Graeff*, 1639, oil on canvas, 200 x 125 cm, Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister, Staatliche Museen, Kassel, inv. GK 239



**Fig 2.** Jan Lievens, *Portrait of Andries de Graeff*, black charcoal, 42 x 31 cm, Teylers Museum, Haarlem, Inv. Nr. P.6

Ter Borch painted several portraits of the extended De Graeff family (as well as other prominent Amsterdam sitters) while in Deventer between 1672 and 1674: Andries's son Cornelis and Cornelis' wife, Agneta Deutz, and his nephews Pieter and Jacob de Graeff.<sup>[4]</sup> The portraits of Andries and Cornelis de Graeff are both inscribed with a date of 1674, which, as Dudok van Heel has shown, is incorrect. An entry in Pieter de Graeff's almanac for 22 July 1673 mentions the commission for Ter Borch's portrait of his brother Jacob and implies that the portrait of Cornelis was already completed by that date.<sup>[5]</sup> Presumably Andries's portrait was painted at about the same time. Although the inscriptions were added at a later date, they appear to be quite old (possibly from the eighteenth century); in both instances the painting's craquelure also runs through the paint of the inscriptions.<sup>[6]</sup>

Three versions of Ter Borch's *Portrait of Andries de Graeff* are extant. The present version was unknown to scholars until it was exhibited at the monographic Ter Borch exhibition held in The Hague and Münster in 1974. The painting did not find universal acceptance at the time; Gerson, in his review of the exhibition, suggested it might be by Caspar Netscher, although there is no specific stylistic reason to think this is the case.<sup>[7]</sup> A second version of the portrait, in the Musée des Beaux-Arts, Dijon (**fig 4**), is probably a studio work. Another, weaker version, which is slightly larger in its dimensions, is in the Suermondt-Ludwig-Museum in Aachen. Although the Leiden Collection's painting has probably been trimmed at the sides and at the top,<sup>[8]</sup> the excellent condition of the paint surface allows one to appreciate fully Ter Borch's sensitive depiction of this imposing individual.



**Fig 3.** Artus Quellinus, *Portrait Bust of Andries de Graeff*, 1661, marble, 73 cm high, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, inv. BK-18305



**Fig 4.** Studio of Gerard ter Borch, *Andries de Graeff*, oil on canvas, 39 x 29 cm, Musée des Beaux-Arts, Dijon, no. CA T 63

-Marjorie E. Wieseman



## Endnotes

1. For biographical information on De Graeff, see P. C. Molhuysen and P. J. Blok, eds., *Nieuw Nederlandsch biografisch woordenboek* (Leiden, 1912): 490–92; Wim de Bell and Norbert Middelkoop in *Kopstukken: Amsterdammers geportretteerd 1600–1800*, ed. Norbert Middelkoop (Exh. cat. Amsterdam, Amsterdams Historisch Museum) (Bussum, 2002), 134, 136; Kees Zandvliet, *De 250 rijksten van de Gouden Eeuw: Kapitaal, macht, familie en levensstijl* (Amsterdam, 2006), 77–78; and S. A. C. Dudok van Heel, *Van Amsterdamse burgers tot Europese aristocraten*, 2 vols. (The Hague, 2008), 1:104.
2. On De Graeff's collecting and patronage, see S. A. C. Dudok van Heel, "Het Maecenaat de Graeff en Rembrandt," *Maandblad Amstelodamum* 56 (1969): 150–55, and G. J. M. Weber, "Dus leeft de dappre Graaf. Zu einem Bildnis Andries de Graeffs von Jan Lievens (1607–1674)," *Oud Holland* 99 (1985): 48ff.
3. Pieter C. Vis, *Andries de Graeff 1611–1678: 't Gezagh is heerelyk; Doch vol bekommelingen*, paper submitted to Universiteit van Amsterdam (2010): 16, no. 4.1.3. For a comparison of all the known portraits of Andries de Graeff, see 20, no. 4.1.6.
4. Ter Borch lived in Amsterdam from the spring of 1672, when the forces of the bishop of Münster and the archbishop of Cologne occupied the city of Deventer, until their withdrawal in the summer of 1674. For portraits of the De Graeff family, see *Portrait of Cornelis de Graeff*, 1673, oil on canvas, 38.9 x 28.9 cm, Mauritshuis, The Hague, inv. 883; *Portrait of Pieter de Graeff*, ca. 1673, oil on copper, 36 x 29 cm, private collection; and *Portrait of Jacob de Graeff*, 1673, oil on panel, 45.5 x 34.5 cm, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, inv. SK-A-3963. The *Portrait of Agneta Deutz (?)* (formerly identified as Elisabeth Bicker van Swieten) is known only through a copy (oil on canvas, 39 x 29 cm, present whereabouts unknown). Sturla J. Gudlaugsson, *Geraert ter Borch*, 2 vols. (The Hague, 1959–60), 2:226–28, nos. 262, 263, 265, and mentioned under 262a, respectively.
5. "Voor rekening van mijn broeder (Jacob) aen Gerard ter Borch aenbesteed zijn pourtraict om dat te contereijten en soo veel daervoor te betaelen als oom Andries de Graeff voor 't contereitsel van zijn soon Cornelis de Graeff betaelt heeft." Gemeentearchief, Amsterdam, Familiearchief de Graeff, no. 194; S. A. C. Dudok van Heel, "In presentie van de Heer Gerard ter Borch," in *Essays in Northern European Art Presented to Egbert Haverkamp Begemann on His Sixtieth Birthday*, ed. Anne Marie Logan (Doornspijk, 1983), 67.
6. The 1712 inventory of Andries de Graeff's niece, Geertuyd Bicker, and her husband, Joan Deutz (both deceased), mentions several family portraits by or after Ter Borch, including "Conterfijtsel van Andries Graeff door Terbrugge, en vrouw, copy" and "Conterfijtsel van Cornelis de Graaf en zijn vrouw door Ter Brugge." Gemeentearchief, Amsterdam, NAA 6670, fol. 597, nos. 14 and 32; Getty Provenance Index Databases, Record no. N-621.

Ariane van Suchtelen (in *Portraits in the Mauritshuis, 1430–1790*, ed. Ariane van Suchtelen and Ben Broos [Zwolle, 2004], 53) has linked the latter reference to Ter Borch's portrait of Cornelis de Graeff, which in 1903 belonged to the Deutz van Assendelft family. Based on the fact that the portraits of Andries and Cornelis—as well as the copy after Ter Borch's portrait of Agneta Deutz, previously thought to be a likeness of Elisabeth Bicker van Swieten—have virtually identical (eighteenth-century) inscriptions, she has suggested that all three portraits may share this early provenance. When and how the portrait(s) may have left the family's possession is not known. The word “copy” at the end of the first listing probably refers to the woman's portrait only; compare no. 33 in the inventory, “Conterfijtsel van d'Heer Jan Deutz d'oude, copy, en Mevrouw, door Terbrugge.”

7. Horst Gerson, “Gerard ter Borch: Zur Ausstellung im Landesmuseum Münster,” *Kunstchronik* 27, no. 2 (1974): 374. Netscher is not known to have made copies after paintings by Ter Borch after leaving the latter's studio. Interestingly, in 1674 Ter Borch was commissioned by Pieter de Graeff to paint a copy after a portrait of Johan de Witt by Netscher; see S. A. C. Dudok van Heel, “In presentie van de Heer Gerard ter Borch,” in *Essays in Northern European Art Presented to Egbert Haverkamp Begemann on His Sixtieth Birthday*, ed. Anne Marie Logan (Doornspijk, 1983), 68, and Marjorie E. Wieseman, *Caspar Netscher and Late Seventeenth-Century Dutch Painting* (Doornspijk, 2002), 239.
8. A. C. Dudok van Heel, “In presentie van de Heer Gerard ter Borch,” in *Essays in Northern European Art Presented to Egbert Haverkamp Begemann on His Sixtieth Birthday*, ed. Anne Marie Logan (Doornspijk, 1983), 67 n. 8, citing observations made by Bob Haak. Indeed, texhcnical examinations have revealed that pronounced cusping occurs at the bottom but not on the other three edges.

## Provenance

- George Granville Sutherland-Levenson-Gower, 2nd Duke of Sutherland (1786–1861), York House, England, until 1846.<sup>1[1]</sup>
- (George J. Morant, London).
- (John Lewis Rutley, London, by whom sold to Frewen for £25, 1848).
- Thomas Frewen (1811–70), Brickwall, Northiam, Sussex, 1848; by descent to Admiral Sir John Byng Frewen, G. C. B. (1911–75), Northiam, Sussex; until ca. 1969.<sup>2[2]</sup>
- (Sale, Sotheby's Mak van Waay, Amsterdam, 24 April 1978, no. 110).
- Private collection, the Netherlands.
- Private collection, Switzerland (sale, Sotheby's, London, 11 April 1990, no. 41 [David Koetser Gallery, Zurich, 1990–91]).

- Private collection (sale, Sotheby's, Amsterdam, 18 May 2004, no. 31, unsold [Salomon Lilian, B. V., Amsterdam, 2004]).
- From whom acquired by the present owner in 2004.

## Provenance Notes

1. A letter from the art dealer, cabinet- and framemaker George J. Morant to the Duke of Sutherland's agent, Thomas Jackson, dated 23 March 1846 (Staffordshire Record Office, D593/P/22/4/4), offered to exchange a painting by Francesco Albani then in his possession for ten paintings owned by the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland, among which "The Terburgh," for £60 (probably *An Officer Making His Bow to a Lady*, now Polesden Lacey [National Trust], inv. 1246491) and "D<sup>o</sup> [ditto] Portrait" for £20. The latter probably refers to the present picture, which had certainly left the collection by 1848. Other paintings identified on the list, by Nicolaes Maes and Pieter de Hooch, are known to have left the Sutherland collection in 1846.

2. Mentioned in the manuscript catalogue of the contents of Brickwall House, March 1851, as hanging in the dining room, and described by Frewen: "This fine Terburgh was one of 11 [*sic*] pictures bought by Rutley picture dealer Gt. Newport St from the Duke of Sutherland out of York House: the Duchess persuaded him to sell them in order to buy some grand furniture!! I bought it of Rutley for 20 £ in 1848." (East Sussex Record Office, FRE 8081). As Morant's firm also supplied furniture to the Duke of Sutherland, it is not clear exactly what the Duke and Duchess received in exchange for the pictures sold. The history of the painting's acquisition by Frewen and its presence in the Sutherland collection was reconstructed by Lara Yeager-Crasselt, researcher at The Leiden Collection, with the assistance of Malinda Law (Staffordshire Record Office) and Philip Bye (East Sussex Record Office).

## Exhibition History

- The Hague, Mauritshuis, "Gerard ter Borch, Zwolle 1617–Deventer 1681," 9 March–28 April 1974; Münster, Landemuseum für Kunst und Kulturgeschichte, 12 May–23 June 1974, no. 56a [lent by a private collection].
- Zurich, David Koetser, "Fine Old Master Paintings Principally of the Dutch and Flemish

Schools,” 1990–91, no. 24 [lent by a private collection].

- Amsterdam, Amsterdam Historical Museum, “Kopstukken: Amsterdammers geportretteerd 1600–1800,” 10 October 2002–26 January 2003, no. 33 [lent by a private collection].

## References

- Langemeyer, G., ed. *Gerard ter Borch, Zwolle 1617–Deventer 1681*. Exh. cat. The Hague, Mauritshuis; Münster, Landesmuseum. Münster, 1974, 186–87, no. 56a.
- Gerson, Horst. “Gerard ter Borch: Zur Ausstellung im Landesmuseum Münster.” *Kunstchronik* 27, no. 2 (1974): 374.
- Brown, Christopher. “Gerard ter Borch at The Hague and Münster.” *Burlington Magazine* 116 (May 1974): 291.
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- *Fine Old Master Paintings Principally of the Dutch and Flemish Schools*. Exh. cat. Zurich, David Koetser. Zurich, 1990–91, no. 24.
- Kettering, Alison McNeil. “Gerard ter Borch’s Portraits of the Deventer Elite.” *Simiolus* 27 (1999): 67, n. 84.
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- Van Suchtelen, Ariane. “Portrait of Cornelis de Graeff (1650–1678), 1673.” In *Portraits in the Mauritshuis, 1430–1790*. Edited by Ariane van Suchtelen and Ben Broos. Zwolle, 2004, 51–55, no. 7.
- Fusenig, Thomas. *Suermondt-Ludwig-Museum Aachen: Bestandskatalog der Gemäldegalerie, Niederlande von 1550 bis 1800*. Aachen and Munich, 2006, 39–40.
- Vis, Pieter C. “Andries de Graeff, 1611–1678, ’t Gezagh is heerelyk: doch vol bekommeringen.” Paper submitted to Universiteit van Amsterdam, 2010, 16, no. 20.

## Versions



## Engraved

1. Dated (incorrectly) and inscribed with the name of the sitter at the upper left: *Andries de Graeff / lxiii Jaer / M.D.C. LXXVIII*

## Versions and Copies

1. After Gerard ter Borch, *Andries de Graeff*, oil on canvas, 42 x 34.5 cm, Suermondt-Ludwig Museum, Aachen, inv. no. GK 509.
2. Studio of Gerard ter Borch, *Andries de Graeff*, oil on canvas, 39 x 29 cm, Musée des Beaux-Arts, Dijon, no. CA T 63.

## Versions Notes

## Technical Summary

The support, a single piece of fine-weight, plain-weave fabric with tacking margins removed, has been lined. The horizontal threads slope downward when viewed from left to right, and there is pronounced cusping along the lower edge only. There are inscriptions identifying the sitter but no wax collection seals, stencils or import stamps along the lining canvas or stretcher.

A light-colored, radio-opaque ground has been thinly and evenly applied. The paint has been applied with loose, fluid brushstrokes in thin, smooth glazes with no use of impasto or raised brushwork.

The painting is unsigned but is dated (incorrectly) and inscribed with the sitter's name in parallel strokes of highlight and shadow along the upper left corner.

No underdrawing is readily apparent in infrared images captured at 780–1000 nanometers. The infrared images, the X-radiograph, and a pentimento suggest the middle finger of the figure's proper left hand was originally depicted shorter, similar in length to the pointer.

The painting was cleaned and restored in 2004 and remains in a good state of preservation.

## Technical Summary Endnotes