

# The Rembrandt Database Newsletter #9, January 2018

research resource on Rembrandt paintings

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Mock-up of the renewed Rembrandt Database website, version 2017-10-01

## New partnership: Indianapolis Museum of Art

We are happy to announce that the RKD and the Indianapolis Museum of Art (IMA) have agreed to collaborate on The Rembrandt Database project.

The IMA holds the painting *Self Portrait with gorget and beret* which is currently attributed to Rembrandt. There has been much debate whether this painting or the version in the MOA Museum in Atami is the original or the copy. As such the painting has been the subject of much research.

Thanks to the collaboration between the RKD and Peter Klein, the dendrochronological report on this painting will be added to our database. The IMA will provide the database with other technical documents, which will be presented alongside the art historical information on the painting.

## What will 2018 hold for The Rembrandt Database?

2018 will be another exciting year for the Rembrandt Database. This year our renewed website will be launched. This website will have higher speed, comprehensive search functionalities, and tools for printing, downloading, adding comments, and making your own selections of data.

The launch of the new website will also be the starting point for several interesting additions to our database, including the Rembrandt paintings in the Städelsches Kunstinstitut in Frankfurt, the Wallraf-Richartz-Museum in Cologne and the Staatsgalerie in Stuttgart. Further, our team members are working daily to add the X-rays from the Rembrandt Research Project archive to the database, after which some 1,500 documents will be accessible online.

Self-evidently we will continue to add information and documentation to the database and initiate collaborations with new partners. To make sure our database stays up-to-date we also need the help of our partners. Please keep informing us on new treatments and/or research projects and continue sending us your newly created technical documentation.

## The Rembrandt Database and the Mauritshuis

Edwin Buijsen (Head of Collections, Mauritshuis, The Hague)

In the early summer of 2007 the foundation was laid for what has become known as *The Rembrandt Database*. As Curator of Technical Documentation at the RKD I was invited to attend a meeting in London organized by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to stimulate the exchange of technical research data. The meeting concluded with a call for projects. Because such an initiative fit perfectly with our plans at the RKD to make technical documentation more accessible, we decided to team up with our colleagues at the Mauritshuis, with whom we had fruitfully collaborated on previous occasions.

The initial idea was to focus on the outstanding group of 19 paintings by Rembrandt and/or his studio in the Mauritshuis as a pilot for an inter-institutional research resource for information and documentation on paintings by (or attributed to) this artist in collections around the world. Our proposal was accepted and we started in 2008. Shortly afterwards Wietske Donkersloot replaced me as project manager, while I assumed the new role of Head of Collections at the Mauritshuis. Even in my new position I remained involved with this exciting project, which has now resulted in a database containing 266 paintings and is still growing. After completion of the pilot the Mauritshuis continues its support of the database by adding, for instance, technical documentation of its recently restored (and re-attributed) painting *Saul and David*, which will become available within the next few months.

Rembrandt, *Bust of an old man with a fur cap*, dated 1630, Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum, Innsbruck, inv. no. 599



## Innsbruck's Rembrandt added to the database

During the last few months, the Rembrandt Database team and the Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum in Innsbruck worked together to update the art historical information on Innsbruck's *Bust of an old man with a fur cap*, and to add research documentation on this *tronie* to the database. The Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum has provided the database with a recent X-radiograph, an infrared photograph and a high-resolution normal light image of their painting, which will be made accessible via the database in the course of this year.

## Collaboration with the Gemäldegalerie in Dresden continued

In the summer of 2014 the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden – Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister published art historical information and technical documentation on three of their Rembrandt paintings in the database: *Bust of a young woman smiling, possibly Saskia van Uylenburgh*, *Saskia van Uylenburgh as Flora*, *The rape of Ganymede* and *Self portrait as the prodigal son*. At the end of 2015 they added to this data on their *Self portrait with a bittern*, *The wedding of Samson* and *Portrait of a man*.

This year the RKD and the Gemäldegalerie continued their partnership to add information and documentation on a last group of 6 paintings, this time all by followers of Rembrandt, to the Rembrandt Database. This last group includes *Manoah's sacrifice*, *Woman weighing gold in an interior* and 'Self-portrait' of Rembrandt with pen.

The data will be made available online in the course of this year.

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