

STEEN (JAN)

Dutch

1626—1679.

Born in Leyden, 1626, died there, 1679. *Genre* painter, obtained his first teaching from Nicolas Knupfer, and later from Jan van Goyen, whose daughter he married. Received into the Guild at Leyden, and spent his life mainly at Haarlem, The Hague, Leyden, and Delft. Carried on a brewery at Delft about 1650-52, but was unsuccessful, and for many years was always in difficulties with his creditors. His first wife and father both dying about 1669, he obtained a license to keep a tavern at Haarlem, and subsequently married a widow, Marijke Herculens, who appears in some of his pictures. An extraordinary genius for painting, was unfortunately co-existent in Jan Steen with jovial habits of no moderate kind. The position of tavern-keeper gave both the opportunity of indulging his propensities, and also of depicting the pleasures of eating and drinking, of song, card-playing, and love-making, directly from nature.

36. *The Innkeeper's Daughter* Owner, Richard S. Cassels