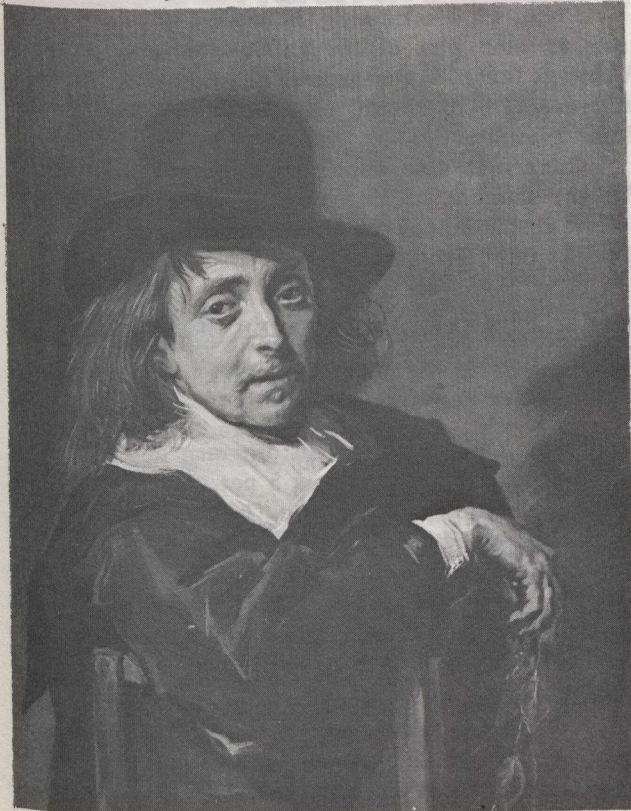


GALLERY BUYS HALS PORTRAIT

Portrait of a Seated Man, a painting of an unknown man by the Dutch seventeenth-century painter, Frans Hals, is the first work by this artist to be acquired by the National Gallery of Canada. Its recent purchase from the estate of a British private collector was announced by the Director of the National Gallery, Miss Jean Sutherland Boggs.



The National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa

Portrait of a Seated Man

Although the work is small, about 17 by 13 inches, it has recently been described by Professor Seymour Slive of Harvard University, the leading expert on Hals, as "one of the finest portraits painted by the artist during his last decades". Professor Seymour included it in the 1962 retrospective exhibition of the artist's work in Haarlem,

COMPARISON WITH WORK IN TORONTO

Miss Boggs pointed out that in Canada this painting has a particular interest because of the two portraits by Frans Hals bequeathed to the Art Gallery of Toronto by Frank P. Wood. Toronto's earlier portrait of the Dutch merchant, *Isaac Abrahamz, Massa*, is larger and more flamboyant than Ottawa's new acquisition. *Massa* is portrayed in a similar posture, but he holds a sprig of holly rather than of laurel.

These differences between the *Massa* portrait of 1626 and the anonymous portrait of 1656 is typical of the change in Hals in his later years toward a subtler and more compassionate portraiture. Toronto's other

portrait represents this evolution in even more subdued form.

The Curator of European Art at the National Gallery, Mr. Gyde Shepherd, describes the new acquisition as "a subtle but directly human characterization by one of the greatest portrait painters in the history of art". He points out that, though it was formerly considered a portrait of the Dutch painter Frans Post, this attribution has recently been disproved.

Frans Hals was born, like Rubens, Van Dyck and Jordaens, in Antwerp, but lived most of his life (1581/3-1666) in Haarlem, where he painted portraits of the burgesses, often in group portraits as members of military guilds or boards of trustees for hospitals.

He is probably best known for the *Laughing Cavalier* in the Wallace Collection, which may give a false impression of an artist who was essentially, as Ottawa's new purchase reveals, a tragedian aware of the conflict between human frailty and courage.

The acquisition of the *Portrait of a Seated Man* greatly strengthens the National Gallery's series of portraits from the Renaissance (Bronzino and the German Beham) of the nineteenth century (Degas and Cézanne).

LONG-LIFE NAVIGATION LIGHT

A marine-navigation light aid fuelled by radio-isotopes, which can operate for many months without maintenance, will be tested at Brockville, Ontario during the next navigation season.

The unit, which uses gamma energy, has been designed for safety to ensure that the outside surface will have a lower level of radiation than that of a domestic color television set. It was developed jointly by the federal Department of Transport and Atomic Energy of Canada Limited with the primary aim of developing navigational aids for use in the Arctic and other remote areas where servicing is difficult and infrequent.

The light, which has been approved by the Department of National Health and Welfare, has a provisional operating licence from the Atomic Energy Control Board. It operates by means of a constant heat output that is changed to electricity by means of a thermoelectric process. It is expected that the power source can continue to operate effectively for at least three years without maintenance.

ARCTIC NATO EXERCISES

A Canadian battalion group consisting of the 1st Battalion the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and support elements will take part in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization training exercise "Arctic Express" in Norway this month.

About 900 troops and vehicles, including armored personnel carriers and snow vehicles, will be flown