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Vanderbilt Museum Receives Grant to Restore Very Rare Dutch Marine Painting in its Collection

Seventeenth-Century Oil Urgently Needs Conservation

CENTERPORT, NY (September 12, 2012) – The Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum has received a \$5,000 grant for the conservation treatment of a valuable seventeenth-century Dutch oil painting in its collection. The grant was made by the Conservation Treatment Grant Program of the Greater Hudson Heritage Network, a re-granting agency of the New York State Council on the Arts.

Stephanie Gress, the Vanderbilt’s director of curatorial services, said the painting, *City of Boulogne* by Hendrick Dubbels (1620-1676), is in “poor condition and in urgent need of restoration.” The work will be performed by the accomplished conservator Alexander Katlan of Flushing, NY.

The painting, original to the collection of William K. Vanderbilt II, was treated last in 1986, Gress said. “The darkened varnish was cleaned and the painting was stabilized by adding a cloth lining to the back of the canvas. The museum will provide matching funds to refurbish the ornate, gilt frame.”



HENDRICK DUBBELS, *View of Boulogne*, c. 1670

**Oil on canvas, 36 x 55"
Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum, Centerport, NY**

Little is known of Dubbels’s life, Gress said. He was born in Amsterdam in 1620 and worked as a painter of seascapes and winter landscapes from circa 1641 until his death in 1676. (Some historical sources list his lifespan as 1621–1707.)

“A lot of Dubbels’s work was attributed to another artist and it is very rare to find his paintings in the United States,” she said. “Much of his work is in collections in Florence and London and in England’s National Gallery. Our painting may be one of the few in this country.”

Gress said the Vanderbilt collection includes other maritime paintings – a favorite of Mr. Vanderbilt – along with nineteenth-century American and Dutch portraits, genre paintings (scenes from everyday life), Spanish religious works and European landscapes. “Although Mr. Vanderbilt collected art and antique furnishings,” she said, “his focus as a collector was ethnographic artifacts,” many of which are displayed in the Memorial Wing of the Vanderbilt Mansion.

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