NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART ONLINE EDITIONS
Dutch Paintings of the Seventeenth Century



Carel de Moor after Gerard ter Borch, *Portret van Jan van Goyen*, 1665–1738, etching, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, RP-P-OB-23.732

Goyen, Jan van

Dutch, 1596 - 1656

BIOGRAPHY

Born on January 13, 1596, Jan Josephsz van Goyen began training as an artist in his native city of Leiden at the early age of ten. The series of teachers with whom he studied included, according to Orlers' near-contemporary account, Isaac van Swanenburgh (c. 1537–1614). Orlers also says that Van Goyen spent a year in France before going to Haarlem, where he is known to have been a student of Esaias van de Velde I (Dutch, 1587 - 1630) in 1617. His early works closely resemble those of Van de Velde.

By 1618 Van Goyen had returned to Leiden, where that same year he married Annetje Willemsdr van Raelst. His name occurs frequently in Leiden documents between 1625 and 1632. In 1625 he bought a house on the Sint Peterskerkstraat, which he sold in 1629 to the marine painter Jan Porcellis (c. 1584–1632). Probably in the summer of 1632 he moved to The Hague, becoming a citizen two years later. Although he also worked in Haarlem in 1634, at the house of Salomon van Ruysdael's brother Isaack (1599–1677), he is thereafter recorded only in The Hague. He bought a house there on the Wagenstraat in 1635 and built another the following year on the Dunne Bierkade, where Paulus Potter (Dutch, 1625 - 1654) is known to have lived from 1649 to 1652. Although a prolific and successful painter, Van Goyen engaged throughout his life in various business ventures, usually unsuccessfully; these included art dealing, auction sales, and speculation in real estate and tulip bulbs.

© National Gallery of Art, Washington

During the 1630s, Van Goyen, along with the Haarlem artists Pieter Molijn (Dutch, 1595 - 1661) and Salomon van Ruysdael (Dutch, c. 1602 - 1670), developed a new approach to the representation of landscape that focused on local subjects and utilized a tonal palette, initiating what has come to be recognized as the golden age of Dutch landscape painting. Van Goyen was a highly respected figure in the artistic community of The Hague. In 1638 and 1640 he was chosen to be *hoofdman* of the painters' guild, and received further official recognition in 1651, when he was commissioned to paint a panoramic view of the city for the burgomaster's room in the Town Hall. In 1649 two of his daughters were married to artists, Margaretha to Jan Steen (Dutch, 1625/1626 - 1679) and Maria to the still-life painter Jacques de Claeuw (c. 1620–1670 or after). Despite his artistic success, Van Goyen died insolvent in The Hague on April 27, 1656.

Original text by Arthur K. Wheelock Jr., April 24, 2014.

Revised to change artist image; sitter identification has changed since initial publication.

December 9, 2019

December 9, 2019

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1641 Orlers, Jan Jansz. *Beschrijvinge der Stadt Leyden*. 2nd ed. Leiden, 1641: 373-374.

1753 Houbraken, Arnold. *De Groote Schouburgh der Nederlantsche Konstschilders en Schilderessen*. 3 vols. in 1. The Hague, 1753 (Reprint: Amsterdam, 1976): 1:166, 170; 2:111, 235; 3:13.

1907 Hofstede de Groot, Cornelis. *A Catalogue Raisonné of the Works of the Most Eminent Dutch Painters of the Seventeenth Century*. 8 vols. Translated by Edward G. Hawke. London, 1907-1927: 8(1927):1-323.

1941 Waal, H. van de. "Jan Van Goyen." In *Steps towards Rembrandt: Collected Articles 1937–1972*. Edited by R. H. Fuchs. Translated by Patricia Wardle and Alan Griffiths. Amsterdam, 1941.

© National Gallery of Art, Washington

1972 Beck, Hans-Ulrich. *Jan van Goyen, 1596 - 1656: ein Oeuvreverzeichnis*. 4 vols. Amsterdam, 1972-1973 (vols. 1-3), 1987 (vol. 4).

1973 Beck, Hans-Ulrich. *Jan van Goyen, 1596-1656: ein Oeuvreverzeichnis*. 4 vols. Vol. 2: Katalog der Gemälde. Amsterdam, 1973.

1977 *Jan van Goyen 1596-1656: Poet of the Dutch Landscape*. Exh. cat. Alan Jacobs Gallery, London, 1977.

1981 Beck, Hans-Ulrich, M. L. Wurfbain, and W. L. van de Watering. *Jan van Goyen, 1596-1656: Conquest of Space*. Exh. cat. Waterman Gallery, Amsterdam, 1981.

1987 Beck, Hans-Ulrich. *Jan van Goyen, 1596-1656: ein Oeuvreverzeichnis*. 4 vols. Vol. 3: Ergänzungen zum Katalog der Handzeichnungen und Ergänzungen zum Katalog der GemäldeDoornspijk, 1987.

1987 Sutton, Peter C., et al. *Masters of Seventeenth-Century Dutch Landscape Painting*. Exh. cat. Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Philadelphia Museum of Art. Boston, 1987: 317-332.

1991 Beck, Hans-Ulrich. *Jan van Goyen, 1596-1656: ein Oeuvreverzeichnis* 4 vols. Vol. 4: Künstler um Jan van Goyen: Maler und Zeichner. Doornspijk, 1991.

1991 MacLaren, Neil. *The Dutch School, 1600-1900*. Revised and expanded by Christopher Brown. 2 vols. National Gallery Catalogues. London, 1991: 1:143-144.

1995 Wheelock, Arthur K., Jr. *Dutch Paintings of the Seventeenth Century*. The Collections of the National Gallery of Art Systematic Catalogue. Washington, D.C., 1995: 61.

1996 Vogelaar, Christiaan, ed. *Jan van Goyen*. Exh. cat. Stedelijk Museum De Lakenhal, Leiden. Zwolle, 1996.

To cite: Arthur K. Wheelock Jr., “Jan van Goyen,” *Dutch Paintings of the Seventeenth Century*, NGA Online Editions, https://purl.org/nga/collection/constituent/1354/2019-11-20 (accessed November 20, 2019).

© National Gallery of Art, Washington