

Historical Paintings and Artifacts from the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, on the Dutch Republic:
Society, Economy, Ideas



St. Elizabeth Day Flood, Master of the Elizabeth Day Flood, circa 1470.

On the night of 18 and 19 November 1421, a flood in Wieldrecht, a polder near Dordrecht in South Holland, two-thousand men, women, and children drowned. The painting is a memorial alterpiece given to the Grote Kerk (Great Church) in Dordrecht by the inhabitants of Wieldrecht. Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam.



De Zielenvisserij (Fishing for Souls), allegory of the competition and jealousy between different religions during the Twelve Year Truce (1609-1621) between Spain and the Dutch Republic, Adriaen Pietersz. Van de Venne, 1614, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam



Fishermen and farmers in a Polder Landscape in Holland, ca. 1630s. Arent Arents, also known as Cabel, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam.



Peat digging and drying in a peat bog, 1783. Hendrik Willem Sweickhardt, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam.



Wool processing in Spain, 1651. Pieter de Molijn, oil on canvas, Bruikleen Institute Collectie Nederland, Rijswijk. Spanish wool was a major export to the Low Countries.



Tryworks (whale oil refinery) of the Amsterdam Chamber of the Company of the North on Jan Mayen Island, Cornelis de Man, oil on canvas, 1639, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam.



Wood model of a double drydock, Hellevoetsluis, 1805, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam



Pieter de la Court (1620-85), Abraham Lambertsz. Van den Tempel, oil on canvas, 1667, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam. De la Court was a textile manufacturer in Leiden and an important writer on political economy in the Dutch Republic who advocated free trade and toleration.



View of Leidschendam with trekschuiten (passenger canal barges). Paulus Constantine La Farque, oil on canvas, 1756, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam.



Anthony van Leeuwenhoek, scientist (1632-1723). Delft tile plaque faïence, second quarter of the 17th century, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam.



The Bookshop of Pieter Meijer Warners at the Vijgendam, Amsterdam. J. Jerguis, oil on canvas, 1820, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam.



Patriot (Dutch Revolutionaries) Anti-Slavery Embroidery, L. van Ommeren-Hengeveldt, 1794, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam. The verse states: "Come, with our bleeding heart/ To see slavery/ So that our words can become deeds/ to let the mouse free."