

The Netscher Painting



Caspar Netscher (1635/36-1684), *A Woman Feeding a Parrot, with a Page*, 1666
Oil on Panel, 45,7 x 36,2cm. Signed and dated lower left: C.Netscher. Ao. 1666.

The Old Master painting *A Woman Feeding a Parrot, with a Page*, dated 1666 and signed by Dutch painter Caspar Netscher (1635/1636-1684), entered the art collection of Hugo Daniel and Elisabeth Andriessse in 1937/1938. They had acquired it from their trusted art dealer, D. Katz from Dieren. Katz had purchased it shortly before on January 17, 1937, from the prominent art dealer Julius Böhler in Munich, who himself had acquired it from the Bavarian State Painting Collections shortly before in 1936.

When Hugo and Elisabeth Andriessse purchased the Netscher painting in 1937/1938, it had a prestigious provenance, with royal lineage: Johann Wilhelm II, Elector Palatine owned it in the 18th century; his collection later formed part of the collection of the Bavarian State Painting Collections in Munich, where documents verify its presence until 1936.

When Hugo and Elisabeth fled Brussels in 1940 from Nazi persecution, they stored their collection at the Musées royaux d'Art et d'Histoire in Brussels on December 12, 1939. The Netscher painting was in sealed crate number 9. The Devisenschutzkommando Belgien seized the entire collection on November 28, 1941, and handed it over to the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR) in Paris on March 10, 1942. The same day, the painting was shown to Commander-in-Chief of the Luftwaffe Hermann Goering, who selected it for his private

residence in Carinhall, where it was kept, according to archival evidence from April 1942. The last mention of the painting's whereabouts before it disappeared was at the Kurfürst Bunker in Potsdam.

The Monuments Men and Women could not find the painting, and restitution claims were rejected due to the unknown whereabouts. Only in 2009/2010 did the Netscher painting reappear as part of the permanent collection of the von der Heydt-Museum in Wuppertal, where it was donated in 1952 from a private collection in Wuppertal. Evidence that this painting was looted from the Andriessse collection was provided by the Jeu de Paume Database, the first large-scale open access digital database for Nazi-looted art. The database, which went online in 2010, published the records of the ERR looting agency, which was headquartered in Paris at the Nazi-controlled Jeu de Paume museum.

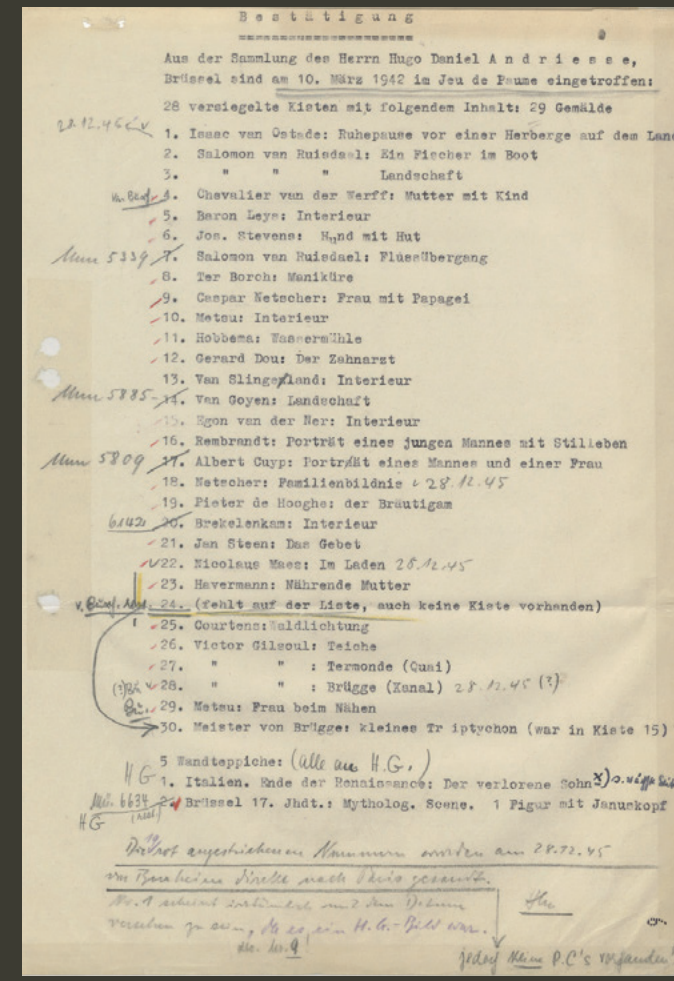
The evidence provided by the Jeu de Paume Database for original ownership of the Netscher painting demonstrates the value of compiling digitized archival records of Nazi-looted art objects in computer databases. Due to information from the database, the city council of Wuppertal restituted the painting to the legal heirs of Hugo Daniel and Elisabeth Andriessse. Following the restitution, the painting was sold by Christie's in New York City on June 4, 2014, for the remarkably high price of \$5,093,000, underscoring the enduring high value of the artworks in the Andriessse collection. Again, the Netscher painting made its way into a distinguished collection: It is now owned by the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C., where Andriessse family descendants recently viewed the painting.



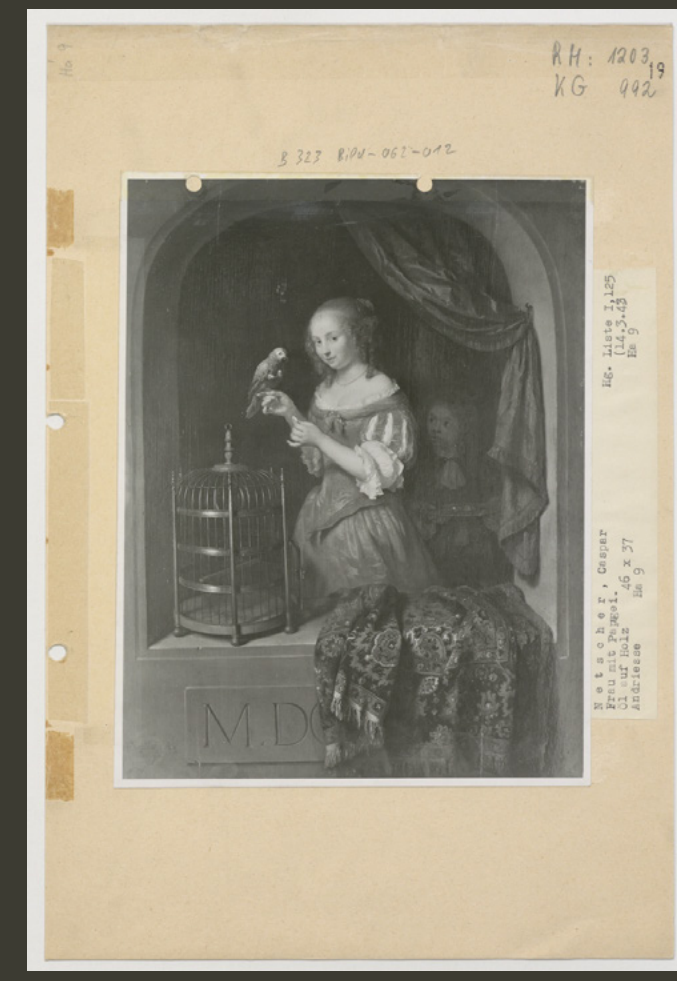
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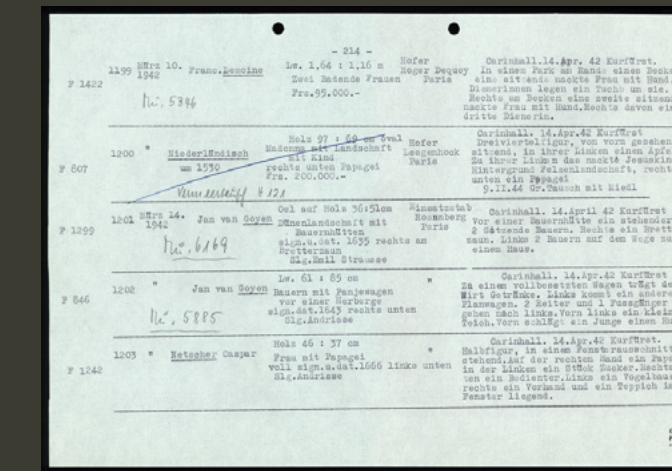
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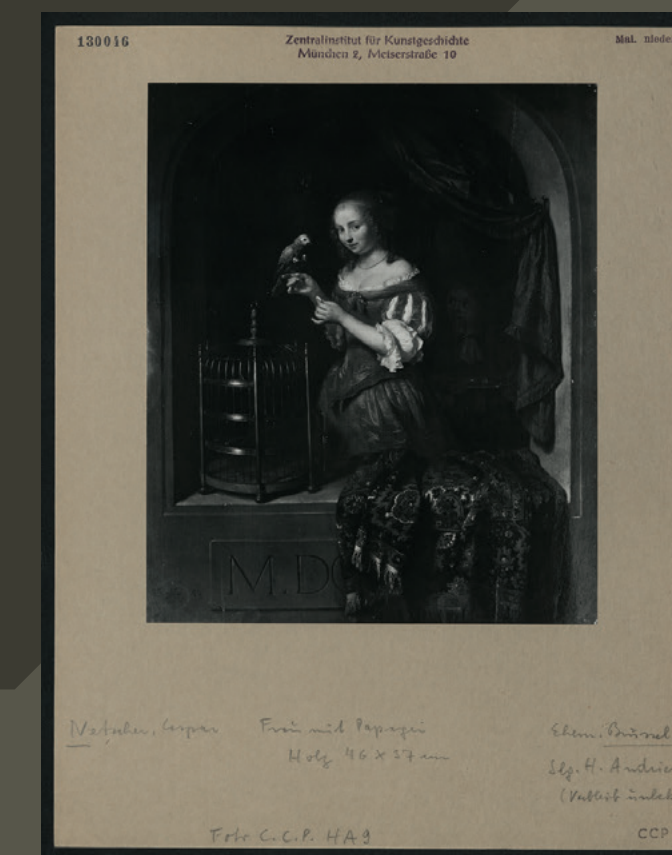
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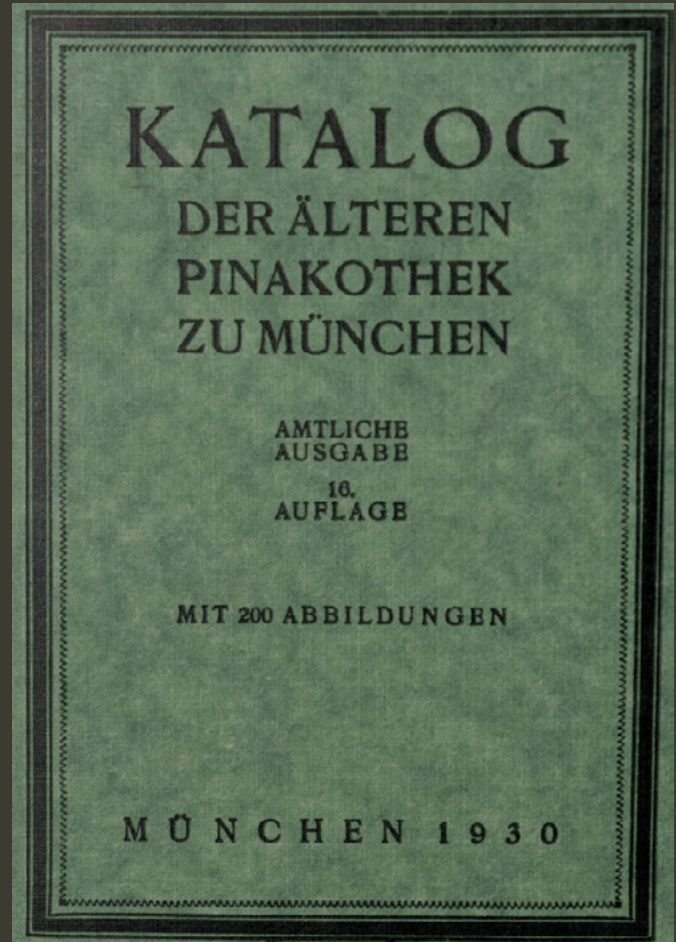
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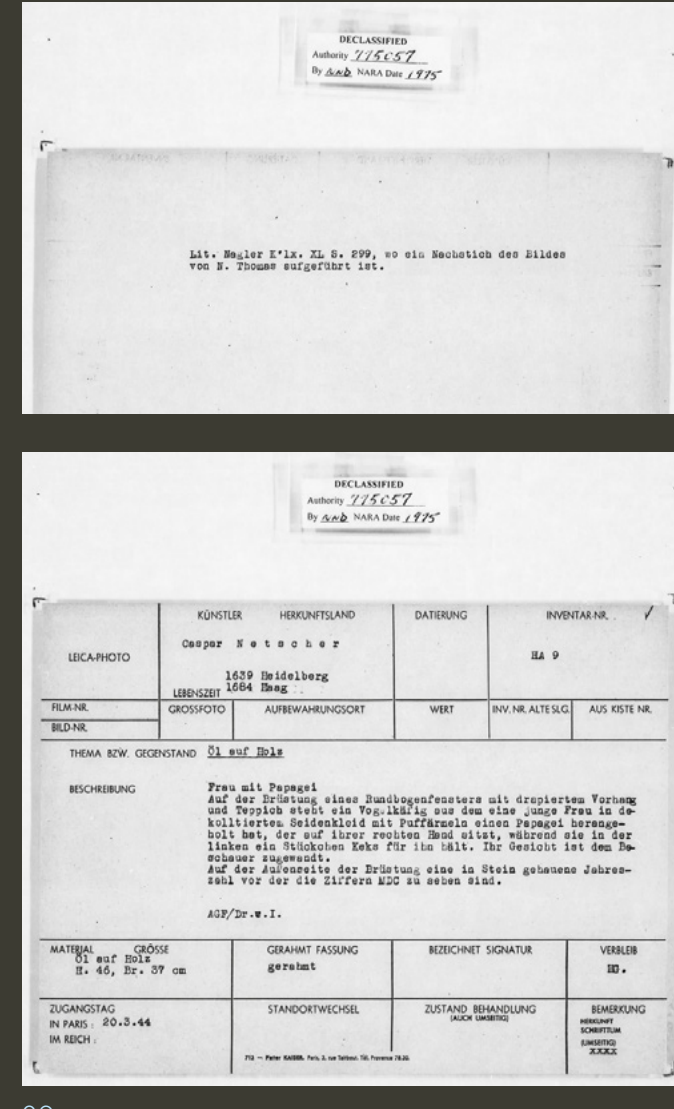
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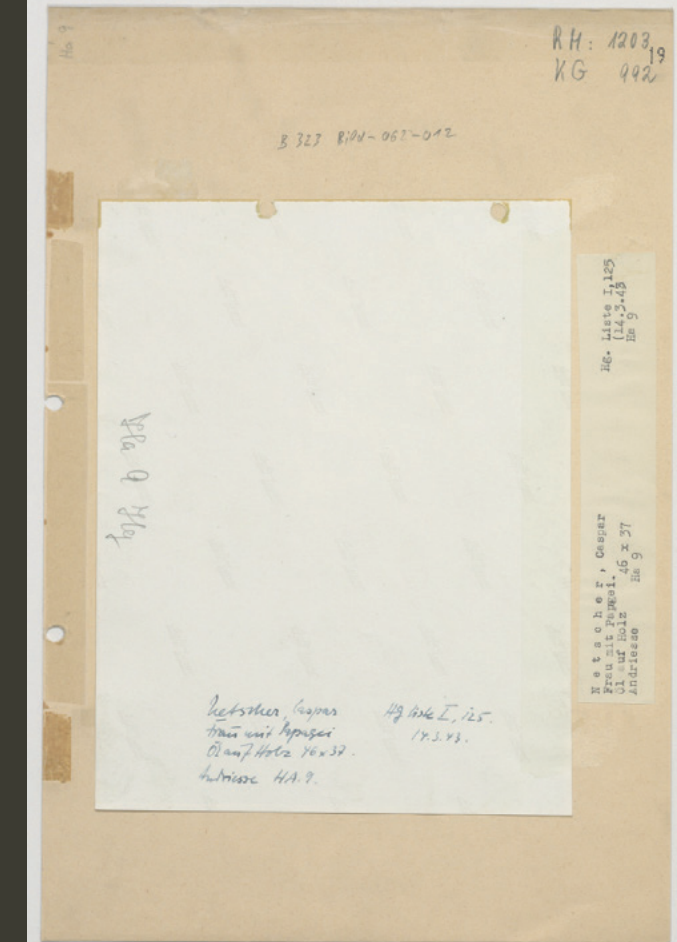
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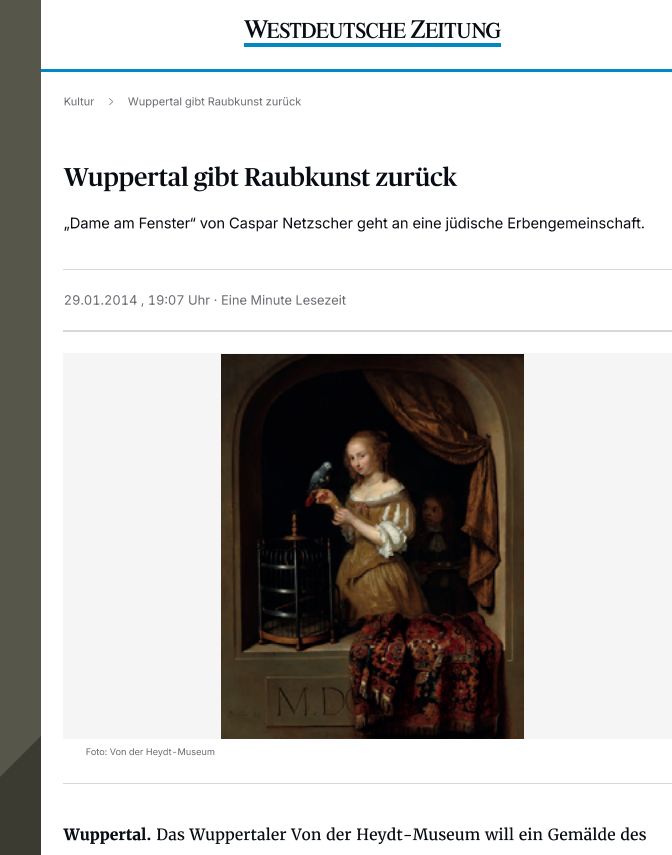
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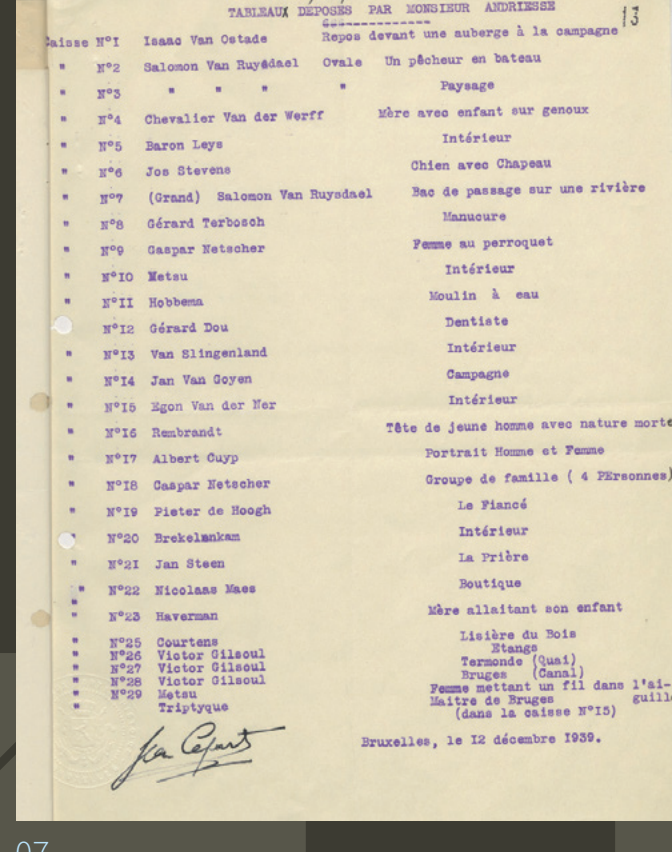
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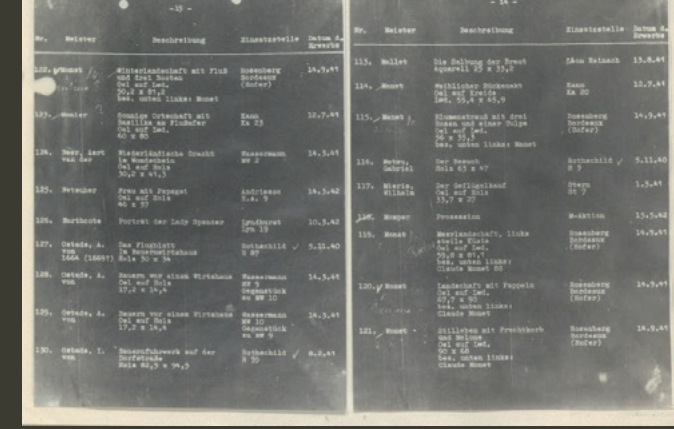
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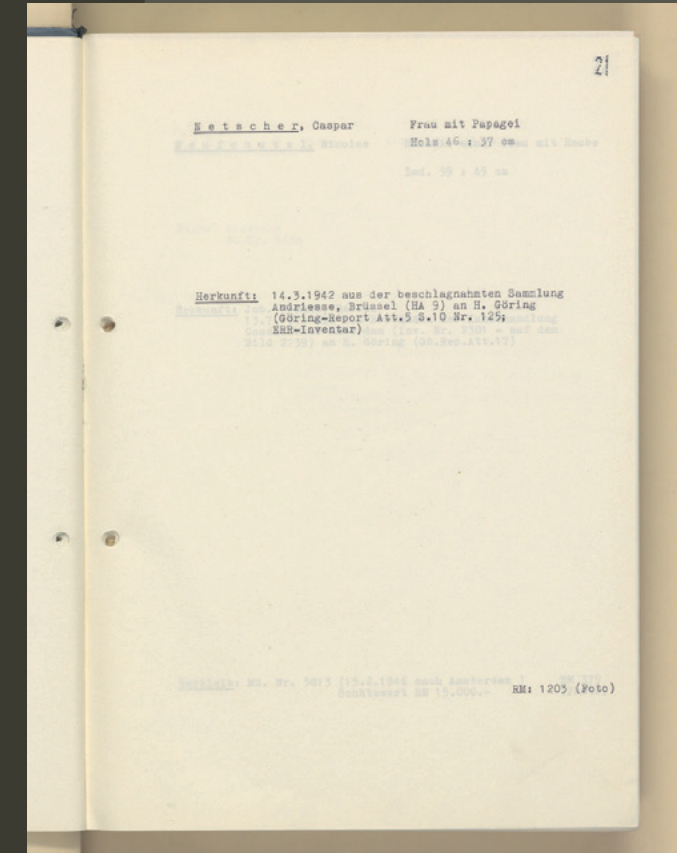
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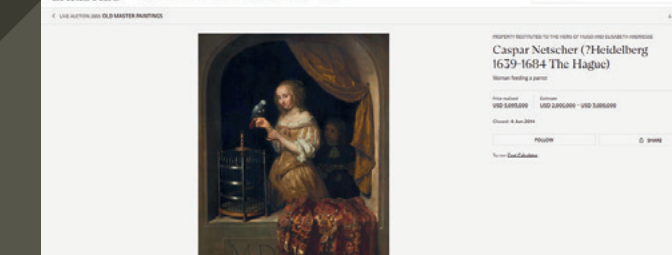
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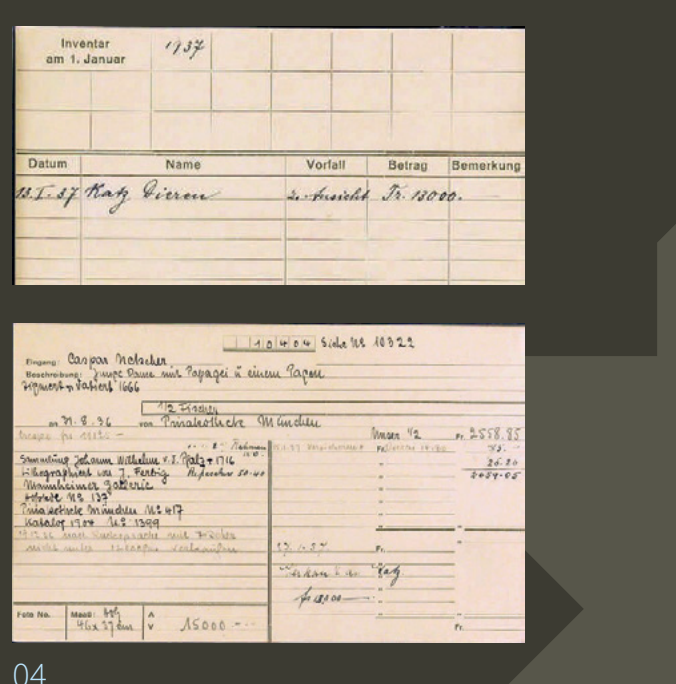
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- 01 — Caspar Netscher, *A Woman Feeding a Parrot, with a Page*, 1666, recto and verso, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
- 02 — Katalog der Älteren Pinakothek zu München, München, 1930.
- 03 — Photo card of the painting from the Julius Böhler archive, Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte, Munich.
- 04 — Card for the Netscher painting referencing the sale from Böhler to Katz, Dieren, on January 17, 1937, Julius Böhler archive, Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte, Munich.
- 05 — The Netscher painting offered in a catalogue by art dealer D. Katz, Dieren, July 3 - September 13, 1937, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
- 06 — Entry and image for the Netscher painting referencing Hugo Andriessse, Brussels as owner in the exhibition catalogue of the Museum Boijmans, Rotterdam, December 1938-January 1939.
- 07 — Confirmation of storage of Hugo Andriessse's paintings in the Musées royaux d'Art et d'Histoire, Brussels, signed by Jean Capart, December 12, 1939, Bundesarchiv Koblenz, B 323/266.
- 08 — Transport receipt for the Andriessse collection to the Jeu de Paume in Paris by the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg, dated March 10, 1942, Bundesarchiv Koblenz, B 323/266.
- 09 — Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg card file for the Netscher painting, NARA RG 260, M1943, Roll 8.
- 10 — Hermann Goering acquires the Netscher painting from the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg on March 14, 1942, Bundesarchiv Koblenz, B 323/62.
- 11 — A photograph of the Netscher painting in the photographs of the Goering Collection, Bundesarchiv Koblenz, B 323/62.
- 12 — Entry for the Netscher painting in the Catalogue of the Goering Collection, referencing the seized Andriessse collection, Bundesarchiv Koblenz, B 323/318.
- 13 — Entry for the Netscher painting in the inventory of the Goering Collection, referencing Carinhall, April 14, 1942, Bundesarchiv Koblenz, B 323/318.
- 14 — Photograph of the Netscher painting from the Munich Central Collecting Point referencing the unknown whereabouts, Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte, Munich, Germany.
- 15 — The Netscher painting is restituted from the von der Heydt-Museum Wuppertal to the legal heirs of Hugo Daniel and Elisabeth Andriessse, *Westdeutsche Zeitung*, January 29, 2014.
- 16 — Christie's, Manson & Woods, New York; Auction 2855 Old Master Paintings, Lot nr. 16, June 4, 2014.

