



A—*A Boy Smoking*, here identified as by Frans Hals. Panel, 57.5 cm. by 49 cm. (Dr. C. Hofstede de Groot)



B—*A Boy in a Black Hat*, here identified as by Frans Hals. Canvas, 56 cm. by 46 cm.

Notes on Various Works of Art : Plate I. Some recently discovered works by Frans Hals



C—*An Old Lady*, here identified as by Frans Hals. Canvas, 73.5 cm. by 59 cm.



**SOME RECENTLY DISCOVERED WORKS BY FRANS HALS.**—A number of unnoticed works by Frans Hals have recently come to my notice. Perhaps the following list of them may be of sufficient interest for our present purpose.

I.—A portrait of a gentleman on a circular panel, diameter 36 cm., bust under life-size in front view, laughing, with vivid carnation, carelessly combed hair, moustache and imperial. Black hat, plain white collar with tassels, light violet greyish costume and greenish sleeves. Painted in a free style, with expressive eyes and mouth. Magnificent in the contrast of colours and in a perfect state.

This little gem was shown to me in April, 1923, by a collector at The Hague, and passed afterwards into the hands of a well-known firm in Amsterdam.

Curiously the authenticity of this picture mentioned already in the Preface of Dr. Valentiner's second edition of the *Klassiker der Kunst* was doubted, and a lawsuit is actually pending before the Court at The Hague.

II.—A life-size half-length of a boy smoking [PLATE I, A], probably one of the sons of the painter, and evidently the same boy as in the well-known circular picture at Schwerin, where he is holding a flute. He holds his pipe in his right hand, and makes with his left hand a sign, demonstrating how delightful smoking is. With uncombed curls, in a yellowish and greyish costume, stripped white collar and cuffs. Probably painted about 1625-30 in the master's freest style, the picture has great attractiveness as a subject and marvellous handling of the brush, every stroke of which can be counted. The warm brownish tones of the oak panel are discernable through the paint at numerous spots and enlighten the effect of the whole.

This picture, which comes from an English collection, was acquired by the writer from a dealer at The Hague. It is on panel, height 57.5 cm., width 49 cm.

III.—Portrait of a youth with a black hat, life-size, half-length in an oval [PLATE I, B], with long hair, plain collar and yellowish grey costume. Broadly executed on canvas, height 56 cm., width 46 cm. According to the costume, it must have been painted in the late forties or

early fifties of the seventeenth century. This picture came to light in the possession of an old Dutch family, and was purchased by a German dealer. It is still on its original canvas.

IV.—Portrait of an old lady [PLATE II, c], life-size, half-length in front view. Holding a church book in the right hand, which is placed before the breast. She wears a bluish white starched cap and cuffs, and black, fur trimmed costume. She is turned slightly to the left, but is looking with an amicable expression at the spectator. The right eye, under which is a wart, seems to be blind. There is an inscription in Frans Hals' usual lettering on the left, reading: ÆTAT 56, A<sup>o</sup> 1628.

The first figure of the age is not very distinct. It looks at the first glance like a 3, but according to the features of the sitter it must be a 5, or perhaps an 8. The face is beautifully modelled, and there is a fine contrast between the pale colouring of the flesh and the bluish white of the cap, which is due to the then already old-fashioned custom of preparing the white wear with blued starch.

This picture, which is painted on canvas, height 73.5 cm., width 59 cm., was discovered by the Dutch dealer, N. van Slochem, in an English house. C. HOFSTEDE DE GROOT.