

For Six Month Period Ending DEC 31 2005
(insert date)

I - REGISTRANT

1. (a) Name of Registrant (b) Registration No.
BELGIAN TOURIST OFFICE 529

(c) Business Address(es) of Registrant
220 East 42nd Street, suite 3402
New York, NY 10017

2. Has there been a change in the information previously furnished in connection with the following:

(a) If an individual:
(1) Residence address Yes No
(2) Citizenship Yes No
(3) Occupation Yes No

(b) If an organization:
(1) Name Yes No
(2) Ownership or control Yes No
(3) Branch offices Yes No

(c) Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in items (a) and (b) above.

IF THE REGISTRANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL, OMIT RESPONSE TO ITEMS 3, 4, AND 5(a).

3. If you have previously filed Exhibit C¹, state whether any changes therein have occurred during this 6 month reporting period.

Yes No

If yes, have you filed an amendment to the Exhibit C? Yes No

If no, please attach the required amendment.

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¹ The Exhibit C, for which no printed form is provided, consists of a true copy of the charter, articles of incorporation, association, and by laws of a registrant that is an organization. (a waiver of the requirement to file an Exhibit C may be obtained for good cause upon written application to the Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Internal Security Section, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20530.)

4. (a) Have any persons ceased acting as partners, officers, directors or similar officials of the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name Position Date Connection Ended

(b) Have any persons become partners, officers, directors or similar officials during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name Residence Address Citizenship Position Date Assumed

5. (a) Has any person named in item 4(b) rendered services directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal? Yes No

If yes, identify each such person and describe his service.

(b) Have any employee or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their employment or connection with the registrant during this 6 month reporting? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name Position or connection Date terminated

(c) During this six month reporting period, has the registrant hired as employees or in any other capacity, any persons who rendered or will render services to the registrant directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal(s) in other than a clerical or secretarial, or in a related or similar capacity? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name Residence Address Citizenship Position Date Assumed

6. Have short form registration statements been filed by all of the persons named in Items 5(a) and 5(c) of the supplemental statement? Yes No

If no, list names of persons who have not filed the required statement.

II - FOREIGN PRINCIPAL

7. Has your connection with any foreign principal ended during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name of foreign principal

Date of termination

8. Have you acquired any new foreign principal² during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes No

If yes, furnish following information:

Name and address of foreign principal

Date acquired

9. In addition to those named in Items 7 and 8, if any, list foreign principals² whom you continued to represent during the 6 month reporting period.

Belgian Tourist office
 Grammarkt 30
 Brussels 1000
 Belgium

10. **EXHIBITS A AND B**

(a) Have you filed for each of the newly acquired foreign principals in Item 8 the following:

Exhibit A³ Yes No N/A
 Exhibit B⁴ Yes No

If no, please attach the required exhibit.

(b) Have there been any changes in the Exhibits A and B previously filed for any foreign principal whom you represented during this six month period? Yes No

If yes, have you filed an amendment to these exhibits? Yes No

If no, please attach the required amendment.

² The term "foreign principal" includes, in addition to those defined in section 1(b) of the Act, an individual organization any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign organization or foreign individual. (See Rule 100(a) (9)). A registrant who represents more than one foreign principal is required to list in the statements he files under the Act only those principals for whom he is not entitled to claim exemption under Section 3 of the Act. (See Rule 208.)

³ The Exhibit A, which is filed on form CRM-157 (Formerly OBD-67) sets forth the information required to be disclosed concerning each foreign principal.

⁴ The Exhibit B, which is filed on Form CRM-155 (Formerly OBD-65) sets forth the information concerning the agreement or understanding between the registrant and the foreign principal.

III - ACTIVITIES

11. During this 6 month reporting period, have you engaged in any activities for or rendered any services to any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes No

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail your activities and services:

The Belgian Tourist office in New York promotes travel to Belgium to individuals, we talk to trade representatives who cover Belgium + Europe. In the press as well as travel agents on behalf of the Belgian Tourist office in Belgium

12. During this 6 month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity⁵ as defined below? Yes No

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail all such political activity, indicating, among other things, the relations, interests and policies sought to be influenced and the means employed to achieve this purpose. If the registrant arranged, sponsored or delivered speeches, lectures or radio and TV broadcasts, give details as to dates, places, of delivery, names of speakers and subject matter.

13. In addition to the above described activities, if any, have you engaged in activity on your own behalf which benefits any or all of your foreign principals? Yes No

If yes, describe fully.

⁵ The term "political activities" means any activity that the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any agency or official of the Government of the United States or any section of the public within the United States with reference to formulating, adopting or changing the domestic or foreign policies of the United States or with reference to political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government of a foreign country or a foreign political party.

IV - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

14. (a) RECEIPTS-MONIES

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes [X] No []

If no, explain why.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies⁶

Date	From Whom	Purpose	Amount
07/07/2005	Belgian	Operational	\$ 128,963.00
8/3/2005	Tourist	expenses	90,000 -
9/8/2005	office		88,000 -
9/16/2005			80,000 -
10/31/2005			43,897 -
12/16/2005			81,797 -
12/26/2005			85,000 -
			107,576.90
Total			\$ 705,232.90

(b) RECEIPTS - FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received, as part of a fund raising campaign⁷, any money on behalf of any foreign principal named in items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes [] No [X]

If yes, have you filed an Exhibit D to your registration? Yes [] No []

If yes, indicate the date the Exhibit D was filed. Date _____

(c) RECEIPTS-THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received any thing of value⁹ other than money from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal? Yes [] No [X]

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name of foreign principal	Date received	Description of thing of value	Purpose
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6, 7 A registrant is required to file an Exhibit D if he collects or receives contributions, loans, money, or other things of value for a foreign principal, as part of a fund raising campaign. (See Rule 201(e).)

8 An Exhibit D, for which no printed form is provided, sets forth an account of money collected or received as a result of a fund raising campaign and transmitted for a foreign principal.

9 Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like.

15. (a) DISBURSEMENTS-MONIES

During this 6 month reporting period, have you

(1) disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes No

(2) transmitted monies to any such foreign principal? Yes No

If no, explain in full detail why there were no disbursements made on behalf of any foreign principal.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies, including monies transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

Date	To Whom	Purpose	Amount
7/1/2005 - 12/31/2005	Staff	Salaries	\$ 285,917 ³⁴
7/1/2005 - 12/31/2005	Various Vendors	Administration office	\$ 158,594 ²²
7/1/2005 - 12/31/2005	Various Vendors	Public Relation Marketing	\$ 174,295 ⁷⁵
7/1/2005 - 12/31/2005	Various Vendors	Office Equipments	\$ 1,989 ⁻

Total \$ 620,796³¹

(b) **DISBURSEMENTS-THINGS OF VALUE**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you disposed of anything of value¹⁰ other than money in furtherance of or in connection with activities on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement?

Yes

No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date disposed	Name of person to whom given	On behalf of what foreign principal	Description of thing of value	Purpose
7/1/2005	Staff	\$ 285,917	34	Salaries
12/31/2005	Various Vendors	\$ 158,594	22	Office
		\$ 174,295	75	Public Relation Marketing
		\$ 1,989		Office equipment

(c) **DISBURSEMENTS-POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you from your own funds and on your own behalf either directly or through any other person, made any contributions of money or other things of value¹¹ in connection with an election to any political office, or in connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus held to select candidates for political office?

Yes

No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Amount or thing of value	Name of political organization	Name of candidate
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10, 11 Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks" and the like.

V - INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

16. During this 6 month reporting period, did you prepare, disseminate or cause to be disseminated any informational materials¹²?
Yes No

IF YES, RESPOND TO THE REMAINING ITEMS IN SECTION V.

17. Identify each such foreign principal.

Belgian Tourist office
Grasmarkt 30
1000 Brussels - Belgium

18. During this 6 month reporting period, has any foreign principal established a budget or allocated a specified sum of money to finance your activities in preparing or disseminating informational materials? Yes No

If yes, identify each such foreign principal, specify amount, and indicate for what period of time.

Belgian Tourist office
Grasmarkt 30
1000 Brussels - Belgium

19. During this 6 month reporting period, did your activities in preparing, disseminating or causing the dissemination of informational materials include the use of any of the following:

- Radio or TV broadcasts
- Magazine or newspaper articles
- Motion picture films
- Letters or telegrams
- Advertising campaigns
- Press releases
- Pamphlets or other publications
- Lectures or speeches
- Other (specify) _____

20. During this 6 month reporting period, did you disseminate or cause to be disseminated informational materials among any of the following groups:

- Public Officials
- Newspapers
- Libraries
- Legislators
- Editors
- Educational institutions
- Government agencies
- Civic groups or associations
- Nationality groups
- Other (specify) _____

21. What language was used in the informational materials:

- English
- Other (specify) _____

22. Did you file with the Registration Unit, U.S. Department of Justice a copy of each item of such informational materials disseminated or caused to be disseminated during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No

23. Did you label each item of such informational materials with the statement required by Section 4(b) of the Act? Yes No

¹² The term informational materials includes any oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including that published by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, or any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or otherwise. Informational materials disseminated by an agent of a foreign principal as part of an activity in itself exempt from registration, or an activity which by itself would not require registration, need not be filed pursuant to Section 4(b) of the Act.

VI--EXECUTION

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, the undersigned swear(s) or affirm(s) under penalty of perjury that he/she has (they have) read the information set forth in this registration statement and the attached exhibits and that he/she is (they are) familiar with the contents thereof and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her (their) knowledge and belief, except that the undersigned make(s) no representation as to truth or accuracy of the information contained in the attached Short Form Registration Statement(s), if any, insofar as such information is not within his/her (their) personal knowledge.

(Date of signature)

(Type or print name under each signature¹³)

1/30/06

F. Rasmussen

Frederique Rasmussen

¹³ This statement shall be signed by the individual agent, if the registrant is an individual, or by a majority of those partners, officers, directors or persons performing similar functions, if the registrant is an organization, except that the organization can, by power of attorney, authorize one or more individuals to execute this statement on its behalf.



U.S. Department of Justice

Criminal Division

Washington, DC 20530

SECTION B

In addition to those persons listed in Section A, list below all current employees rendering services directly on behalf of the foreign principals(s) who have not filed short-form registration statements. (Do not list clerks, secretaries, typists or employees in a similar or related capacity). If there is some question as to whether an employee has an obligation to file a short-form, please address a letter to the Registration Unit describing the activities and connection with the foreign principal.

Name	Function	Date Hired

Signature: F. Raymond Date: 1/30/06

Title: Director North America

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ATTACHMENT

Trade Show	Place	Date
AATF	Quebec City	July 07-10, 2005
MPI	Miami, FL	July 10-15, 2005
HSMAI	New York, NY	July 25, 2005
ASAE	Nashville, TN	August 13-16, 2005
Virtuoso Travel Mart	Las Vegas, NV	August 15-17, 2005
Luxury Travel Expo	New York, NY	September 15-17, 2005
IT & ME	Chicago, IL	September 27-29, 2005
Brussels Day	New York, NY	October 11, 2005
Meetings & Event Style Show	New York, NY	October 20-21, 2005
WTM	London	November 8-11, 2005
ACTFL	Baltimore, MD	November 18-20, 2005
USTOA	Orlando, FL	December 4-6, 2005

11/17/05

ATTACHMENT
Press Releases

News in Brief
VisitBelgium E-newsletter
Memling's Portraits
VisitBelgium E-newsletter

September-05
September-05
October-05
October-05

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Contact: **Liliane Opsomer**
RELEASE
Press and Public Relations Manager
Email: media@visitbelgium.com

FOR IMMEDIATE

September 2005

News in Brief

Memling's Portraits: The Frick Collection is the only museum in the United States to present this touring exhibition of paintings by the important Flemish artist Hans Memling (c. 1440-1494). Organized by the Frick in collaboration with the Groeninge Museum, Bruges, and the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid, the exhibition provides an overview of Memling's successful career in portraiture. The exhibition opens October 12, 2005 at The Frick Collection. For more information check: www.frick.org

Audi Jazz Festival: From mid-October through mid-November, blues, free or rock: every tendency in international jazz will be heard in the capital's finest concert halls.
For program details : www.audijazz.be

Women of Distinction: On show in Mechelen from September 17 through December 18, 2005. This exhibition illustrates the unique and global importance of Margaret of Austria and Margaret of York. The exhibition is staged at the newly renovated heritage center on the River Dijle. For more information visit: www.mechelen2005.be

Simply Mussels: A symbol of Belgium, the mussel is coming out of its shell to be displayed and to surprise at the Museum of Natural Sciences in an exhibition through June 2006. Dive into the exciting world of this clingy little bivalve... it's enough to tempt anyone! Visit: www.sciencesnaturelles.be

Panamarenko: This exhibition at the Royal Museums of Fine Arts is the first complete retrospective of Panamarenko's extensive oeuvre. In addition to a wide selection of works and installations, it will include drawings, sketches, designs and models which embody Panamarenko's experience of the world. Brussels from September 30th through January 15, 2006. For more information: www.fine-arts-museum.be

Nocturnes 2005: From October through November, every Thursday, many Brussels museums will open their door for late-night visits. Guided tours, drinks and concerts provide a festive atmosphere. **MORE**
Link: www.brussel museums.be

Belgian Tourist Office

220 East 42nd Street - Suite 3402 - New York, NY 10017

Tel: 212-758-8130 - Fax: 212-355-7675

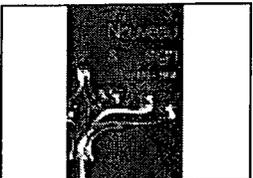
www.visitbelgium.com



Memling's Portraits: The Frick Collection is the only museum in the United States to present this touring exhibition of paintings by the important Flemish artist Hans Memling (c. 1440-1494). Organized by the Frick in collaboration with the Groeninge Museum, Bruges, and the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid, the exhibition provides an overview of Memling's successful career in portraiture. The exhibition opens October 12, 2005 at The Frick Collection. [MORE](#)



Audi Jazz Festival: From mid-October through mid-November, blues, free or rock: every tendency in international jazz will be heard in the capital's finest concert halls. [MORE](#)



Art Nouveau and Design 1830-1985: An exhibit featuring decorative arts influenced by Horta, Hankar and Van de Velde, on show through December 31, 2005 at the Royal Museums of Arts and History in Brussels. [MORE](#)



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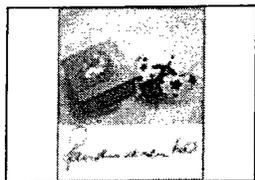


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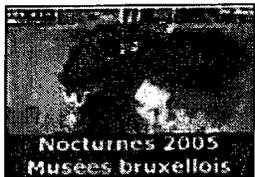


Klara Festival of Flanders: Original and different, this music festival in Brussels is a great way to celebrate fall. Relayed live to 26 countries, it expands on themes as varied as they are unexpected: minimalism, 1000 years of British music or the 175th anniversary of Belgium. Through 22/09/2005 [MORE](#)

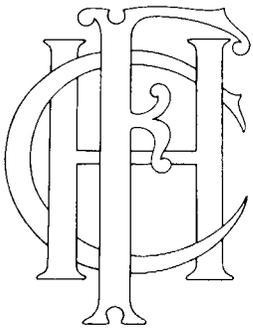
Panamarenko: This exhibition at the Royal Museums of Fine Arts is the first



complete retrospective of Panamarenko's extensive oeuvre. In addition to a wide selection of works and installations, it will include drawings, sketches, designs and models which embody Panamarenko's experience of the world. Brussels from September 30th through January 15, 2006. **MORE**



Nocturnes 2005: From October through November, every Thursday, many Brussels museums will open their door for late-night visits. Guided tours, drinks and concerts provide a festive atmosphere. **MORE**



PRESS RELEASE

from

THE FRICK COLLECTION

1 EAST 70TH STREET • NEW YORK • NEW YORK 10021 • TELEPHONE (212) 288-0700 • FAX (212) 628-4417

Frick Collection is the Exclusive U.S. Venue of the Most Comprehensive Exhibition of Memling's Portraits

A PRESENTATION UNLIKELY TO BE REPEATED

October 12 through December 31, 2005

Press Preview: Tuesday, October 11, 2005, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The Frick Collection, 1 East 70th Street, New York, NY 10021; RSVP: (212) 547-6844



Hans Memling, *Portrait of a Man with a Coin of the Emperor Nero (Bernardo Bembo?)*, c. 1473–74, oil on panel.
Koninklijk Museum voor Schone Kunsten, Antwerp

The Frick Collection is the only museum in North America to present this keenly anticipated touring exhibition of paintings by the important Netherlandish artist **Hans Memling** (c. 1435–1494). The presentation of *Memling's Portraits* in New York draws upon major international collections and provides the most comprehensive overview ever undertaken of the artist's successful career in portraiture, with a selection of more than twenty works by the master and his school, including portrait-wings from diptychs and triptychs along with autonomous panels of individual patrons. Nearly two-thirds of all of Memling's recorded portraits are featured in this exhibition, which is considered to be an unprecedented viewing opportunity and one unlikely to be repeated. Indeed, the

exhibition, which not only illuminates the career of a Renaissance master but also explores the function of portraiture in the Netherlands during the fifteenth century, has been a highlight of international museum calendars this year, having been met with critical acclaim at both of its European venues (spring at the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid, and this summer at the Groeningemuseum, Bruges). The touring exhibition was co-organized by those institutions and The Frick Collection. Its New York showing and final stop—running from October 12 through December 31, 2005—is coordinated by Chief Curator Colin B. Bailey. *Memling's Portraits* is accompanied by a full-color catalogue and a number of public lectures as well as a special lecture-concert program.



Hans Memling, *Portrait of an Elderly Couple (Woman)*, c. 1470–75, oil on panel. Musée du Louvre, Paris

Major funding for *Memling's Portraits* has been provided by The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation, with generous support from Melvin R. Seiden in honor of Joseph Koerner, Meg Koster, and Leo Anselm Koerner. Additional support has been provided by The Samuel H. Kress Foundation, The Council of The Frick Collection, the Consulate General of Belgium in New York, The Helen Clay Frick Foundation, and the Fellows of The Frick Collection. This exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and Humanities.

This project is also supported, in part, by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.



Comments Chief Curator Colin B. Bailey, “There is something quite thrilling about being able to experience in two rooms many of the finest portraits from Memling’s career, some of which are crossing the Atlantic for the first time. Thanks to the contribution of an international group of Memling specialists, these works have been studied as carefully and as thoroughly as at any time in their history. The excitement now will be to see how the public responds to the experience of confronting these portraits, face to face: for just under three months, New York will be home to the fifteenth-century master from Bruges.”

TRUTHFULNESS, TECHNIQUE, AND INNOVATION

The panels in this exhibition were executed in Bruges over a period of some twenty-five years, between 1470 and the artist’s death in 1494. While issues of chronology, authorship, and the identification of sitters have long been debated by historians, the panels themselves never fail to impress—and sometimes amaze us—by their humanity, truthfulness, and peerless technique. Often placed before radiant, tranquil landscapes (Memling’s signal innovation to portraiture) the sitters appear close to the picture plane, frequently in seven-eighths as opposed to the more conventional three-quarters view, their hands (or hats) occasionally extending beyond the frame into the viewer’s own space. Measured and confident, Memling’s sitters display their prosperity and social position with dignity and grace; their apparel is elegant and costly (Bruges was a center of cloth-making), but their adornment is never ostentatious. As for expression, they are almost always found in serious reflection, yet are not without emotion.

SAINTLY SUBJECTS AS WELL AS BANKERS, MERCHANTS, AND DIPLOMATS

More or less similar in scale, format, and presentation (most of the featured panels are half-lengths with hands), Memling’s portraits fulfilled both secular and religious functions. In fifteenth-century Netherlandish art, portraiture had infiltrated devotional painting, as can be seen in his full-length standing Virgin, in which the anonymous donor kneels by his patron saint to receive the visit of the Mother and Child. Male donors often commissioned their likeness as part of a devotional ensemble. The panel, shown at the top of the following page, of the finely appareled young man in prayer, perhaps a merchant involved in the Spanish wool and textile industry, might have formed the left



Hans Memling, *The Virgin and Child with St. Anthony Abbot and a Donor*. 1472, oil on panel. National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa

wing of a triptych. In such a case, the central image of a Virgin and Child would have been flanked on the right by a portrait of the man's wife. Portraits might celebrate forthcoming nuptials, commemorate a longstanding union, or, as with a portrait of composer Gilles Joye, painted in 1472, have been created as an independent epitaph, to be placed near the sitter's tomb.



Hans Memling, *Portrait of a Young Man at Prayer*, c. 1485–94, oil on panel. Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid

Among the many independent portraits that Memling painted, several dating from the 1470s seem to have been commissioned to commemorate a foreigner's sojourn in Bruges. Such half-lengths, with waterways and swans dotting the lush countryside in the background, were particularly popular with the Italian bankers and merchants who did business in this international trading city. Recently, the handsome aquiline features of the man holding a Roman coin

have been identified as those of Bernardo Bembo, the humanist and patrician who, in 1473, resided as Venetian envoy at the Burgundian court of Charles the Bold (see first page). The palm tree in the background and the sprig of laurel visible to the left of the coin have been associated with Bembo's family emblem, and one wonders if the work might have been executed to commemorate his appointment as Venetian ambassador to Florence in 1475.



Hans Memling, *Portrait of a Young Man*, c. 1475–80, oil on panel. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Robert Lehman Collection



Hans Memling, *Portrait of a Man*, c. 1470–75, oil on panel. The Frick Collection

There are far fewer clues to the personalities of other unidentified sitters, although Italian origins also can be posited. *The Portrait of a Young Man* (above, right), for example, has a distinctive loggia motif—with the landscape viewed beyond marble columns—that is generally agreed to have inspired an artist in Verrocchio's workshop; furthermore, its composition as a whole seems to have provided an artist in Perugino's circle with the model for the painting by Perugino that is now in the Uffizi, suggesting that the portrait was in Florence by the late 1470s. Even the sitter in the Frick's *Portrait of a Man*, shown to the left, might be associated with the Italian community in Bruges: this painting had a north Italian provenance before it appeared on the Berlin art market in the early decades of the twentieth century.

LIFE AND CAREER OF MEMLING

Although his date of birth is not recorded, Jan van Mimmelinghe (Hans Memling) was born sometime between 1435 and 1440 in the German town of Seligenstadt, near Mainz. His early training was carried out probably in Cologne, where he would have been exposed to the international style of Stefan Lochner (c. 1400–1451). It is generally agreed that Memling, having arrived in the Low Countries in the late 1450s, spent a prolonged period in Brussels, in the workshop of Rogier van der Weyden (1399–1464), where he may have enjoyed journeyman status. There he completed his formation as a painter, thoroughly assimilating the artist's style, technique, and composition.

Following van der Weyden's death in June 1464, Memling made the move north to Bruges, a thriving commercial center that was also a hub of international banking. The city had attracted painters of the importance of Jan van Eyck (c. 1395–1441), who spent the last nine years of his life in Bruges, and Petrus Christus (c. 1410–1475 or 1476), who worked there for thirty years and was the leading artistic personality at the time of Memling's arrival. Memling was granted citizenship of the city in January 1465, and by the 1470s he was Bruges's preeminent painter.

Memling was primarily engaged as a painter of devotional works for a variety of local and foreign patrons. While he never enrolled as a member of Bruges's corporation of painters and was not employed by the Burgundian court, throughout his career he received prestigious commissions from religious institutions, trade guilds, foreign merchants and patrons, and Flemish patricians. By 1480 he had established enough wealth to be among the citizenry assessed for a loan to support the continuing war against France. Although the final decade of his career was marked by political turmoil, domestic disturbance, and economic instability, his practice still attracted important foreign commissions from as far afield as Lübeck Cathedral and the Benedictine abbey of Santa Maria la Real in Castille. With the disappearance of his Italian patrons and sitters, he relied more on prominent local patrician families. In the early 1480s, Willem Moreel, a burgomaster and banker, commissioned a devotional triptych and a large family altar from him, and in 1487 Maarten van Nieuwenhove—scion of a family of civic officeholders and a future councilor and burgomaster—was memorialized in a small portrait diptych, shown below, which is universally considered one of the masterpieces of Northern Renaissance art.



Hans Memling, *Diptych of Maarten van Nieuwenhove*. 1487. oil on panel. Stedelijke Musea, Memlingmuseum – Sint-Janshospitaal, Bruges

The twenty-three-year-old Maarten van Nieuwenhove commissioned this devotional diptych, in which he was portrayed in prayer before the Virgin Mary, to fulfill dynastic and representational functions as well. References to the sitter's identity abound: from the family coat of arms and motto in the stained-glass window at upper left, to the four medallions around the heraldic cipher. In the panel to the right, Maarten's patron saint, Saint Martin, appears on horseback in the stained-glass window. His lips parted in prayer, van Nieuwenhove is shown kneeling against the parapet, which is covered with an Oriental carpet that extends across the foreground of both panels and on which the Virgin has placed the brocaded cushion as a seat for the naked Christ child. A tour de force of illusionism—note the convex mirror behind the Virgin's right shoulder—whose spatial complexities (and coherence) were meticulously determined, the *Diptych of Maarten van Nieuwenhove* communicates piety, luxury, and dynastic ambition in equal measure. It is poignant, then, that the following year, with Maximilian of Austria's defeat and detention in Bruges, Maarten's elder brother Jan, a burgomaster and member of the pro-Hapsburg city council, would be publicly tortured and executed by the insurrectionary municipal militia. As scholar Dirk de Vos has noted, "with the possible exception

of Fra Angelico in Medici Florence . . . no artist ever created an oeuvre with as little connection to the real world as Memling.”

Memling’s last years were difficult ones: his wife, Tanne (or Anna), died in 1487, leaving him with three young children for whom to care. In this same year the city suffered violent upheaval following the accession to the throne of Maximilian of Austria, and plague further devastated Bruges in 1492. With its trading privileges lost to Antwerp, the city swiftly declined as a center of commerce and banking, but Memling seems to have been active until the end; his enormous retable of nine panels for the monastery church of Najera was dispatched to Castille in 1492. The artist died on August 11, 1494, and was buried in the cemetery of the church of Saint Giles (fifty-three years earlier, van Eyck had been given the honor of burial within). Never forgetting his Rhenish origins, he endowed annual masses to be given in the Seligenstadt church for “Henn Mommelings . . . citizen of Bruges in Flanders.”

CATALOGUE

The exhibition is accompanied by a full-color catalogue (191 pages) published by Ludion in English, French, Dutch, Spanish, and German editions. It features essays by Till-Holger Borchert, Chief Curator of the Groeningemuseum (also the catalogue’s editor); Lorne Campbell; Paula Nuttall; and Maryan W. Ainsworth, as well as detailed entries on all twenty-eight panels that were featured in the slightly variant versions of the traveling exhibition. It is available for \$40 in English and French softcover editions through the Museum Shop of the Frick, the institution’s Web site (www.frick.org), and by calling (212) 288-0700 (hardcover through Thames & Hudson).

FOUR FREE PUBLIC LECTURES *(SEATING FOR LECTURES IS LIMITED AND UNRESERVED)*

Date: Friday, October 14, 2005, 6:00 p.m.
Speaker: Till-Holger Borchert, Groeningemuseum, Bruges
Title: *Memling and the Art of Portraiture*

The chief curator of the Groeningemuseum will provide an overview of the career of Hans Memling, the subject of the Frick’s fall special exhibition, *Memling’s Portraits*. Borchert, who edited the accompanying catalogue and contributed an essay, will discuss patronage, the artist’s sitters, the function of portraiture, and the way in which Memling was influenced by earlier Netherlandish portraiture.

Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2005, 6:00 p.m.
Speaker: Barbara G. Lane, Queens College and The Graduate Center of the City University of New York
Title: *Memling’s Influence on Italian Portraiture from Leonardo to Raphael*

This lecture will highlight a number of portraits by Memling that were in Italy during the late quattrocento, tracing their influence on Italian portraiture from the 1470s to the first decade of the sixteenth century.

Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2005, 6:00 p.m.
Speaker: Maryan W. Ainsworth, The Metropolitan Museum of Art
Title: *Face to Face with Memling’s Portraits*

Memling's Portraits offers an unparalleled opportunity to reconsider first-hand this aspect of the artist's oeuvre. This lecture will explore the working methods behind the extraordinary results that secured Memling's reputation as Bruges's most successful fifteenth-century portraitist.

Date: Wednesday, December 7, 2005, 6:00 p.m.
Speaker: Paula Nuttall, Victoria and Albert Museum
Title: *Memling's Italian Patrons*

Working in the cosmopolitan city of Bruges, Memling found a ready market for his art amongst the Italian mercantile community. This lecture will look at the varied commissions he produced for his Italian clients, including Tommaso Portinari, manager of the Medici Bank.

LECTURE-CONCERT PROGRAM

Date: Sunday, November 13, 2005, 4:15 p.m. talk; 5:00 p.m. concert
Speaker: Joelle Wallach
Artists: Newberry Consort

To coincide with the exhibition *Memling's Portraits*, this two-part program begins with a talk by composer Joelle Wallach, who discusses parallels between Franco-Flemish painters and composers of the fifteenth century. At 5:00 p.m., the Newberry Consort (vielles, lutes, harp, countertenor, and tenor) will perform Renaissance/Medieval vocal, instrumental, and dance music of the period of Hans Memling. The Newberry Consort is ensemble-in-residence at the Newberry Library and at the Northwestern University School of Music.
\$20. Tickets are available by telephone (212) 547-0709, online at www.frick.org, and by mail.

BASIC INFORMATION

General Information Phone: (212) 288-0700

Website: www.frick.org

E-mail: info@frick.org

Where: 1 East 70th Street, near Fifth Avenue.

Hours: open six days a week: 10am to 6pm on Tuesdays through Saturdays; 1pm to 6pm on Sundays. Closed Mondays, New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day. Limited hours (1 to 6pm) on Lincoln's Birthday, Election Day, and Veterans Day.

Admission: \$12; senior citizens \$8; students \$5

PLEASE NOTE TO YOUR READERS: Children under ten are not admitted to the Collection, and those under sixteen must be accompanied by an adult.

Subway: #6 local (on Lexington Avenue) to 68th Street station; **Bus:** M1, M2, M3, and M4 southbound on Fifth Avenue to 72nd Street and northbound on Madison Avenue to 70th Street

Tour Information: included in the price of admission is an Acoustiguide INFORM® Audio Tour of the permanent collection, provided by Acoustiguide. The tour is offered in six languages: English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish.

Museum Shop: the shop is open the same days as the Museum, closing fifteen minutes before the institution.

Group Visits: Please call (212) 288-0700 for details and to make reservations.

Public Programs: A calendar of events is published regularly and is available upon request.

#91, August 10, 2005

For further press information, please contact Heidi Rosenau, Manager of Media Relations & Marketing, or Geetha Natarajan, Media Relations & Marketing Coordinator

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Welcome to our e-newsletter



European Christmas Market: Brussels will hold its annual European Christmas market on the Place St. Catherine, from December 2, 2005 through January 1, 2006. This market with its cheerful lights, delicious aromas and a vast number of stalls promises a true holiday atmosphere. [**MORE**](#)



Europalia Russia: Europalia is back and, this time, looks at Russia. Through February 21, 2006 discover the history of the Trans-Siberian Railway, Peter the Great, Fabergé, the Russian avant-garde, Soviet art, fashion, and more. As with every Europalia, the performing arts alternate with cinema, orchestras, ballets and exhibitions. [**MORE**](#)



Label-Desing.be: From October 16th, 2005 through February 16th, 2006 the exhibition will highlight design in Belgium after 2000. The exhibition is organized by Grand-Hornu Images, Design Flanders and Pro-Design within the framework of the 175th Anniversary of Belgium. Grand Hornu is also the home of MAC, the Contemporary Art Museum of Wallonia, the French speaking part of Belgium. [**MORE**](#)



Christmas in Bruges: In December the city of Bruges transforms into a magical Christmas wonderland. Imagine Christmas and carillons concerts, Christmas markets and The Procession of the Eastern Star in a city crisscrossed by canals. Winter in Bruges is a month long celebration of the holidays. [**MORE**](#)



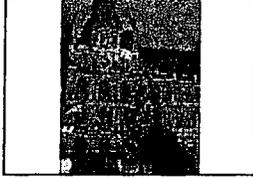
Einstein, the other view considered: The greatest personality of the twentieth century, Einstein, a towering figure of science, will be given place of honor in an outstanding exhibition in Brussels. If you don't know what $E=mc^2$ means, well, it's all relative and you just have to go and see the show at the Tour and Taxis Site from December 1 through February 28, 2006 [**MORE**](#)



I was 20 in 45: Exhibition focusing on the Battle of the Bulge and held through November 30th at the Seminary in Bastogne. [**MORE**](#)



Christmas Village in Liege: In the heart of the city of Liege 160 decorated wooden cottages form a magical Christmas Village throughout the month of December. This year, the Village will welcome Norway. **MORE**



Christmas in Antwerp: As of December 9th the annual Christmas market opens on the market square. An ice skating ring promises winter fun for all ages. Nativity scenes are on display in many churches and Christmas concerts abound. **MORE**

[For more information view our Calendar of Events](#)

www.visitbelgium.com

