



Editorial

This new issue of *The Rijksmuseum Bulletin* features art-historical contributions about photography, paintings and prints. The subjects, as usual, have a clear connection with our own collection. Steven Joseph's article takes us to mid-nineteenth-century London, where Alfred Bennett, the owner of a publishing house, introduced a new genre: the photographic Gift Book. At Christmas, when people buy gifts for one another, he conceived of books illustrated with photographs – a new technique at the time – that presented an image of rural England, accompanied by romantic verses about the landscape. It is no accident that they often contained illustrations of well-known tourist attractions. These publications were so successful that Bennett went on to make them for continental Europe and ultimately even for the United States, based on the same format.

Scholarly art-historical publications always present something new, but sometimes they are truly splendid discoveries. Maaïke Rikhof, for example, discovered the name of the young woman in the monumental painting that Therese Schwartz created in Paris around 1884, which now hangs in the Rijksmuseum. In her short notice, Rikhof explains the circumstances surrounding the creation of the work, and identifies several other artists who also portrayed the evidently well-known model. In a second short notice, Saskia van Altena discusses another find, arising out of a recent acquisition by the Print Room: a previously unknown visit to Prague by the Amsterdam printmaker and publisher Dancker Danckerts. In 1655 he made a – now extremely rare – full-size print of a precious rock crystal vase from Emperor Ferdinand III's *Kunstkammer*. She places the extraordinary print and Danckert's visit to Prague in context.

The Rijksmuseum is extremely grateful to our patrons for various earmarked funds that place us in the fortunate position of being able to actively supplement our collection. This issue of *The Rijksmuseum Bulletin* concludes with a wide-ranging selection of recent acquisitions by the Fine Arts and History departments. The objects are briefly explained and together they provide a fascinating image of the enormous diversity that characterizes our collection.