



46

45 Anthony (Anthonie) van Dyck
(1599–1641)

Self-Portrait, late 1620s

Etching. 236 × 158 mm

Mauquoy-Hendrickx 4, first state

This is one of the first plates from the series of portraits of distinguished contemporaries that van Dyck began soon after his return from Italy in 1627 and which was still incomplete at his death. The first collected edition was published by Gillis Hendricx in Antwerp in 1645, and it has always been known since as the *Iconography*. Eighteen plates were begun as etchings by van Dyck himself, and were later completed with the burin by others. These early etched states are rare, and have always been greatly sought after as one of the high points of the art of etching, and W. H. Carpenter published a catalogue of them in his *Pictorial Notices ... of Sir Anthony van Dyck* in 1844.

Twenty-one impressions of the first state of this *Self-Portrait* are recorded, before it was reworked by Jacques Neefs to form the frontispiece of the series. Slade owned a total of seven early impressions, as well as two other unrelated etchings by van Dyck.

1868–8–22–806. Slade collection

46 Cornelis Visscher (1628/9–58)

The Large Cat, c. 1657

Engraving. 139 × 184 mm

Hollstein 42, first state

Together with an etching by Hollar, this is the most famous of all prints of cats. Visscher himself was one of the rare professional engravers in seventeenth-century Holland, and made nearly 200 prints after his own designs or those of others during his short career. His original drawing for

this print dated 1657 was sold in 1883 but has since been lost. Visscher's work was avidly collected in his own lifetime, and remained popular right through the nineteenth century. William Smith sold a virtually complete collection to the British Museum in 1839; the 270 prints cost £300. Later in 1864 Smith wrote a *catalogue raisonné* of Visscher's work, the only thing he ever published. Visscher has now dropped completely out of fashion, and this print, on account of its subject, is one of the few still remembered. Slade's impression, one of seven Visschers he owned, is of the first state, before C.J. Visscher's address was added in the lower centre margin. The impudent mouse approaching from the safety of the bars in the background adds a touch of humour to the scene.

1868-8-22-881. Slade collection