

The Wilson Art Gallery & Museum Information Sheet



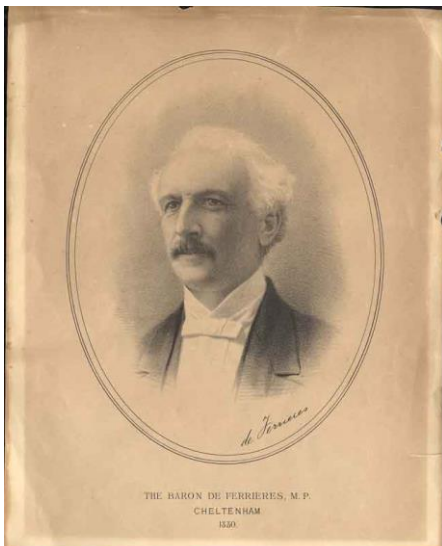
The Baron de Ferrières's collection at The Wilson

Henri-Francois-Joseph Auguste du Bois (1798-1864), who became the second Baron de Ferrières after his marriage, was responsible for the formation of the paintings collection at The Wilson that bears his title. He acquired these artworks during the last 24 years of his life. When he died in 1864 in Cheltenham, he bequeathed his paintings to his son Charles (1824-1908), the third Baron de Ferrières. Charles was both MP and Mayor of Cheltenham. He in turn gave 43 of his father's paintings, as well as £1000, to found an Art Gallery in Cheltenham in 1898. The Museum part of this organisation did not come into being until a little later, in 1907. The art gallery and museum was renamed The Wilson in 2013.



The over door of the Municipal Fine Art Gallery, Cheltenham, portrait of Baron De Ferrières, circa 1900.

The Baron de Ferrières's collection at The Wilson reflects artists that were held in high esteem by continental mid-19th-century collectors - and even King George IV himself. It comprises highly finished paintings from the mid-17th century to the mid-19th century. The 17th century and the beginning of the 18th century were the Baron's particular preferences. Due to this, the collection is especially rich in 17th century Dutch genre paintings, such as those by Gerrit Dou, Gabriel Metsu and Jan Steen, and in 19th century Dutch and Belgium art, including works by Cornelius Springer, Andreas Schelfhout and Baron Leys. During the 1840s, the second Baron, was living in Brussels, which explains the great number of Belgian paintings in his collection.



Portrait of the third Baron De Ferrières, MP, Cheltenham, 1880.

Two years after the second Baron's death, his son Charles exhibited many of his pictures in the monumental 'National Exhibition' in Leeds. The third Baron also sold some of the paintings and gave others to various art galleries including the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, and the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam. When he died, Reverend Thomas Sheepshanks inherited 24 paintings, which were on long-term loan to Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum until his own death in 1929. Since then the gallery has acquired other artworks from the original collection, notably from the Baron's great niece, Miss EE Roberts, in 1965.

Many additions have been made to the art gallery's collection since the de Ferrières's gift, a generous donation which still acts as a benchmark for developing the fine art collection at the gallery today.

In 2010, the art gallery acquired a painting of the third Baron's mother. Henriette married Henri-Francois- Joseph Auguste du Bois (the second Baron de Ferrieres) in 1821, around the time that this portrait was painted. Her husband's title, and thus the name of the art collection came from Henriette Louise Peterson, as her mother was a de Ferrières.



Portrait of Henriette Louise Peterson by Alexandre-Jean Dubois-Drahonet, oil on canvas.



'A Man and a Woman with Wine', by Gabriel Metsu, Oil on Canvas, 17th century. This was one of the 43 paintings donated to The Wilson by the third Baron de Ferrières



'Self Portrait' by Gerrit Dou. Oil on panel circa 1650. This was one of the 43 paintings given to The Wilson by the third Baron de Ferrières

To find out more about the collections held by the museum contact:
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Visit our website: <http://www.cheltenhammuseum.org.uk/>

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