

THE SELF-ACCUSED FORGER OF VERMEER'S ART:



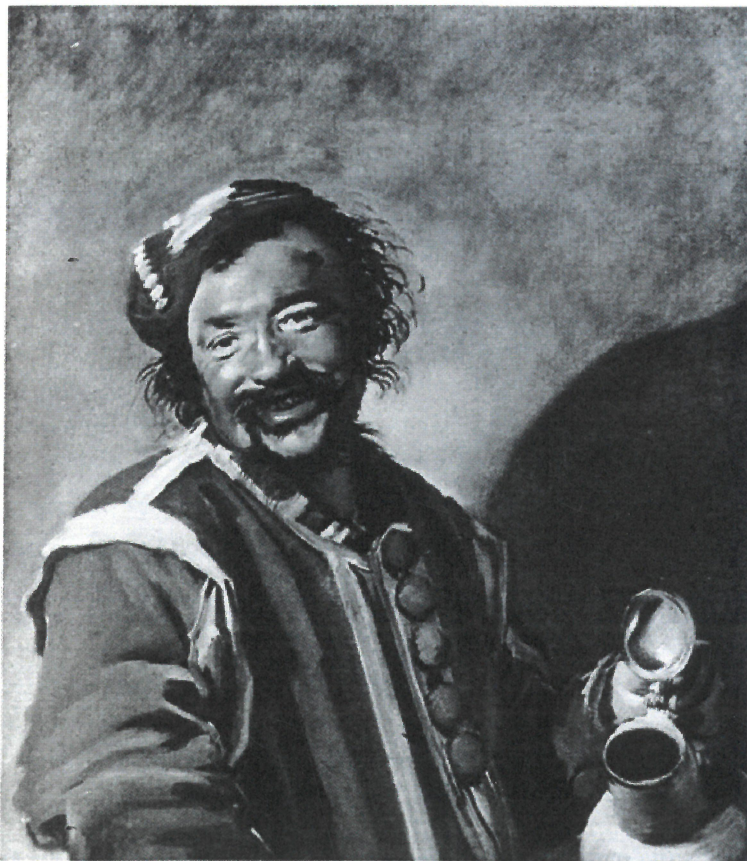
"THE FARMERS' PUB": A SKETCH IN SEPIA DONE WITH A GOOSE-QUILL BY HAN VAN MEEGEREN—AN EXAMPLE OF THE WORK HE SIGNED WITH HIS OWN NAME.

THE art sensation of the decade, which the living Dutch painter, Han van Meegeren, has caused by his confession that he forged six Vermeers (including the famous "Christ at Emmaus") and two Pieter de Hoochs, is still developing. For although the painter will have to stand trial some time not before next May, the Dutch State, acting for the Rijksmuseum at Amsterdam and the Boymans Museum at Rotterdam, has filed

(Continued opposite.)



A SIGNED VAN MEEGEREN: THE STRONG LIKENESS OF THE HEAD TO THAT OF CHRIST IN THE "VERMEER" "CHRIST AT EMMAUS" IS REMARKABLE.



DESCRIBED AS "A JOLLY TOPER" AND SOLD AS A FRANS HALS; BUT ACTUALLY A WORK FROM THE INGENIOUS HAND OF HAN VAN MEEGEREN.

(Continued.)

them with his own name. This offer has been rejected. He now proposes to paint a large "Golgotha" in the style of Vermeer, but in this case, as in that of the picture "Jesus Preaching in the Temple," over his own name. Meanwhile, interest in his own works, already considerable before the sensational discovery of the forgeries, has far from lessened. This work, some specimens of which are reproduced above, has been purchased on its own



"THE CHERRY EATERS"—AN EXAMPLE OF VAN MEEGEREN'S CHAMELEON-LIKE VERSATILITY AND COMMAND OF WIDELY DIFFERING STYLES.

merits by the Modern Department of the State Museums, though it is lacking in the style and even the good taste which are to be expected in pictures of real artistic value. Van Meegeren claims that it was lack of appreciation of his own artistic efforts that drove him to forgery, and not desire for wealth, inasmuch as his own works brought in sufficient sums to satisfy any such desire. None of his own works, however, can in any way compete

EXAMPLES OF VAN MEEGEREN'S ACKNOWLEDGED WORK.

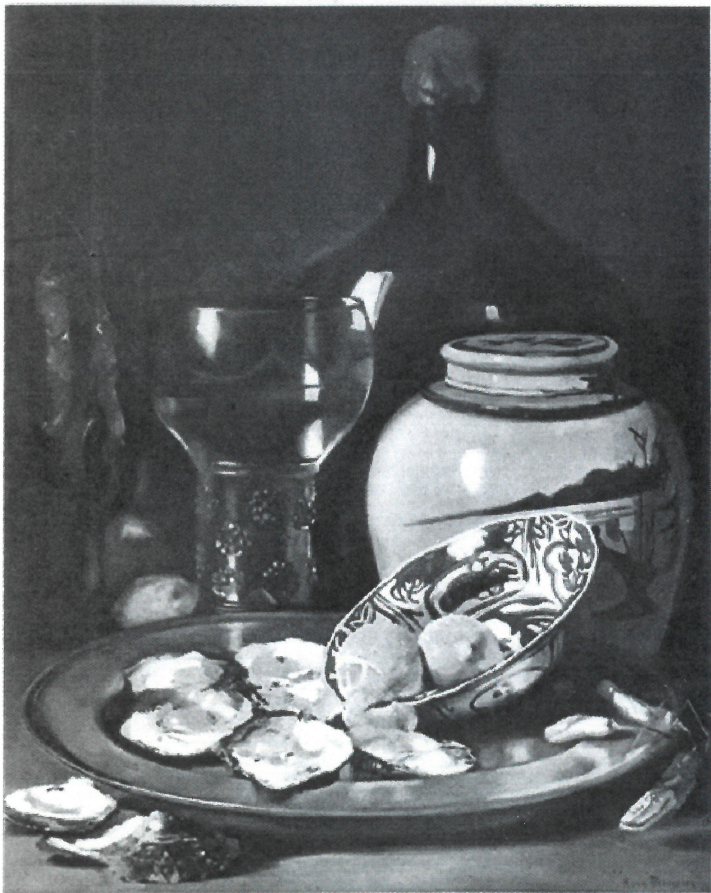


"SALOME"; BY VAN MEEGEREN: A CARTOON WHICH REVEALS THE MORBIDITY OF THE ARTIST, WHEN DETACHED FROM SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY STANDARDS.



A PENCIL DRAWING OF A GREYHOUND—FROM THE ALBUM GIVEN BY VAN MEEGEREN TO HITLER AND INSCRIBED TO "MY BELOVED FUHRER."

Continued.]
 a petition of bankruptcy against van Meegeren, thus not only anticipating the decision of the court, but also implying the recognition of the truth of van Meegeren's amazing confession. As the estate of the painter (though comprising more than fifty houses, several seventeenth-century pictures and other valuables) is not considered equal to meeting the claim for five million guilders damages, it has been suggested that van Meegeren should continue his art—for instance, copying Old Masters over his own name for collections abroad—on condition that 80 per cent. of his earnings be paid to the State. Van Meegeren agrees, but only on condition that the six "Vermeers" and the two "Pieter de Hoochs" be returned to him and he be allowed to sign
(Continued below.)



A VAN MEEGEREN STILL-LIFE: GLASS GOBLET OF THIS TYPE, SIMILARLY HANDLED, ARE NOT UNCOMMON IN SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY DUTCH PICTURES.



A VAN MEEGEREN STUDY IN THE MANNER OF HALS: ANOTHER TREATMENT OF THE SAME SUBJECT APPEARED IN OUR ISSUE OF NOVEMBER 24.

with the colour and composition of the forgeries. Details have come to light of the amounts the painter made with his seventeenth-century imitations. The famous "Christ at Emmaus" was discovered in 1937 in Paris. Several Dutch millionaires bought it for £62,000 and presented it to the Boymans Museum. The sum of £125,000 was paid for the "Anointing of the Feet," in the Rijksmuseum at Amsterdam, which van Meegeren claims to have

Painted. A third Vermeer, "The Last Supper," was bought by a Rotterdam coal king for £160,000. Van Meegeren, who claims to have painted this in Nice in 1938, says he received £125,000. "Isaac Blesses Jacob" and "The Adulterous Woman" are other Vermeer forgeries for which, it is said, £50,000 and £150,000 were paid. The two Pieter de Hoochs are both interiors. For one, later resold for £24,000, van Meegeren claims to have received £14,000.