

To be known is to be loved

The Middachten collection consists of about 800 *Cartes de Visite* and 400 so-called Cabinet Cards. The photographs which are mounted on cardboard, show well-known as well as lesser-known people from home and abroad. Members of the family, royalty and other notables form the core of this extensive collection, which is unique for the reason that it is kept where it was originally assembled.

Victoria Bentinck

Victoria Countess Bentinck (1863-1949) started the collection at Middachten. She was the youngest daughter of Count Charles of Aldenburg Bentinck and Countess Caroline Mechtild of Waldeck and Pyrmont, great-great-grandparents of the current resident of Middachten, Count Franz zu Ortenburg. Collecting cartes de visite and cabinet cards was very popular in the second half of the 19th century and became an international craze, comparable to collecting stickers of pop idols and football players. You could even buy special albums to display your collection. Here in the orangery, you can see enlarged photographs of a representative part of the collection. In the castle there is a display of a selection of the original cartes de visite and some of the albums.

Portrait photographs in the 19th century

Photography was invented at the beginning of the 19th century. Louis Daguerre, Joseph Nicéphore Niépce and William Henry Fox Talbot, were regarded as the pioneers. Soon this new technique became popular and having your portrait taken became fashionable. Cartes de visite were introduced in 1854 by André Adolphe Eugène Disdéri. These miniature portraits were used as visiting cards, and became collectors' items. The photograph was printed on albumen glazed paper, which resulted in a highly detailed image. It also had the advantage of being less expensive than the regular photographic paper. This made it possible for more people to have their photograph taken and for more copies to be made. It became therefore more attractive to collect these cartes de visite.

Around 1870 the cartes de visite were displaced by the larger cabinet cards and this became the most popular form of portraiture. Owing to the bigger format (11 x 16,5 cm), the cabinet card was used for family group photos. This bigger format also lends itself for display in elegant photograph frames next to collecting them in albums. Owing in part to the introduction of the affordable Kodak Box Brownie camera, first introduced in 1900, people increasingly began taking their own photographs, and with that the popularity of the cabinet card declined.

The Middachten Collection

On the walls of the orangery, you can see a representative selection. The photographs have been chosen to best show the diversity and the variety of the collection.

Each carte de visite has the name of the sitter, date, and the name of the photographer and/or studio, if known.

Family portraits

- 1 Karl count von Pückler und Limpurg 1855-1896), son of Agnes countess zu Waldeck und Pyrmont (1827-1858), nephew to Caroline Mechtild zu Waldeck und Pyrmont
Photo circa 1850
- 2 Caroline Mechtild countess zu Waldeck und Pyrmont (1826-1899), married to Carel Anton Ferdinand count Bentinck (1792-1864)
Photo: De Lavieter & Co, The Hague
- 3 Family portrait of Carel Anton Ferdinand count Bentinck and Caroline Mechtild countess zu Waldeck und Pyrmont (1826-1899)
Photo circa 1862
- 4 George Victor, reigning prince zu Waldeck und Pyrmont (1831-1893), father of Emma, queen of the Netherlands
- 5 General Carel Anton Ferdinand Count Bentinck (1792-1864) and his sons, the counts Godard John George Charles (on Alma) and Carel Reinhard Adalbert (on Riggy)
Photo circa 1862



- 6 Victoria Maria countess Bentinck (1863-1949)
Photo: Fall Photo, 9-10 Baker Street W., London
- 7 Helena countess zu Waldeck und Pyrmont (1859-1942) and her brothers Hermann and Adalbert, counts zu Waldeck und Pyrmont
Photo circa 1870
- 8 Henry Charles count Bentinck (1846-1903), married to Henriette Mc Kerrell of Hillhouse (1848-1905)
- 9 Willem Carel Philip Otto count Bentinck and Waldeck-Limpburg (1848-1912), great-grandfather of the current count Franz zu Ortenburg
- 10 Carel Reinhard Adalbert count Bentinck (1853-1934), father of Marie countess Bentinck (1879-1975), last lady of Twickel married to Rodolphe baron van Heeckeren van Wassenaer, last lord of Twickel
- 11 Godard count Aldenburg Bentinck (1857-1940), last lord of Amerongen, married to Augustine countess van Bylandt (1861-1916)
- 12 Victoria Maria countess Bentinck (1863-1949)
- 13 Godard count Bentinck (1857-1940), last lord of Amerongen
Photo: Emil Becher
- 14 Isabelle countess Bentinck (1889-1981), married to Wilhelm count zu Solms-Sonnenwalde; daughter of Willem Carel Philip Otto count von Bentinck und Waldeck-Limpburg (1848-1912) and Maria Cornelia baroness van Heeckeren van Wassenaer, lady of Weldam
Photo: E. Biebr
- 15 Carel, count Bentinck (1853-1934), father of Marie countess Bentinck (1879-1975), last lady of Twickel married to Rodolphe baron van Heeckeren van Wassenaer, lord of Twickel
Photo: Wollrabe
- 16 Marie countess Bentinck (1879-1975), married to Rodolphe baron van Heeckeren van Wassenaer, lord of Twickel
Photo: E. Chiffelle
- 17 Saint Bernard dog, Bentinck House, Lange Voorhout 13 in the Hague, circa 1890
Photo: De Lavieter & Co., Den Haag



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18 Maria Cornelia baroness Van Heeckeren van Wassaenaer (1855-1912), great-grandmother of the current count Franz zu Ortenburg, circa 1870
Photo: Mouret

19 Maria Cornelia baroness van Heeckeren van Wassaenaer and her brother Carel, baron van Heeckeren van Wassaenaer, circa 1860
Photo: Severin, R.

20 Maria Cornelia baroness van Heeckeren van Wassaenaer, with her two brothers, barons Carel and Rodolphe van Heeckeren van Wassaenaer, circa 1865
Photo: Disderi & Cie

21 Unknown man and dog
Photo: Wheeler & Day Oxford

22 The baroness von Malortie
Photo: Van der Weyde

23 Unknown actress from Manhattan, New York, circa 1880
Photo: José Maria Mora

24 Eugène Jean Alexander count Bylandt (1807-1876), politician, president of the Senate of the Netherlands
Photo: Herman Buckmann

25 Catharina countess van Hogendorp van Hofwegen (1811-1887), married to Eugène Jean Alexander count Bylandt
Photo: Hermann Brandseph

26 Count Jules Auguste van Bylandt (1818-1873)
Photo: Friedrich Hertel

27 Lady Adrienne Vegelin van Claerbergen (1891-1982), married to William count Bentinck (1880-1958), grandparents of the current count Franz zu Ortenburg
Photo: Ad Zimmermans

28 Sir Daniël Vegelin van Claerbergen (1890-1918), brother of lady Adrienne Vegelin van Claerbergen (1891-1982)
Photo: Ad Zimmermans

29 Child in pram and Danish dog, in the forecourt of Amerongen castle, circa 1890
Photo: Brainich & Leusink

Royal portraits

30 Grand Duchess Maria Alexandrovna of Russia (1853-1920), duchess of Edinburgh, married to prince Alfred Ernst Albert, duke of Edinburgh
Photo: Ch. Bergamasco

31 Alfred Ernst Albert, duke of Edinburgh (1844-1900), second son of the British queen Victoria and her husband prince Albert von Sachsen-Coburg und Gotha
Photo: Ch. Bergamasco

32 Alfons XII (1857-1885) and Maria Christina (1858-1929), king and queen of Spain
Photo: Fernando Debas

33 Alexandrina Victoria, princess of Hannover, queen of Great Britain and empress of India (1819-1901)
Photo: Downey, W&D

34 Family portrait of queen Victoria of Great Britain, prince consort Albert von Sachsen-Coburg und Gotha and their children
Photo: Downey, W&D

35 Albert von Sachsen-Coburg und Gotha (1819-1861), prince consort of the British queen Victoria
Photo: Magall, Brighton



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36 Oscar Gustaaf Adolf, crown prince of Sweden - the later king Gustaaf V of Sweden - (1858-1950) and his wife Victoria, princess von Baden (1862-1930)
Photo: 1880, Schulmann & Sohn

37 Franz Joseph I, emperor of Austria (1830-1916)
Photo: Othmar v. Türk

38 Elisabeth, empress of Austria, also known as 'Sisi' (1837-1898)
Photo: Othmar v. Türk

39 Abdül-Aziz, 32nd sultan of the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) (1830-1876)
Photo: Downey, W&D

40 Reza Shah Pahlavi (Reza Kahn), shah of Iran (1878-1944). Father of the last shah of Iran
Photo: Navary

41 Wilhelm II (1859-1941), German emperor and king of Prussia
Photo: Franz Hanfstaengl

42 Viktoria, princess von Sachsen-Meiningen (1860-1919), sister of the German emperor Wilhelm II
Photo: Franz Hanfstaengl

43 Sophia Charlotte, princess von Preussen, duchess von Oldenburg (1879-1964), married to Eitel prince von Preussen, the second son of the German emperor Wilhelm II
Photo: Reichard & Linder

44 Anna Paulowna, grand duchess of Russia, queen of the Netherlands (1795-1865), married to Willem II, king of the Netherlands (1792-1849)
Photo: Severin, London

45 Willem II, king of the Netherlands (1792-1849)

46 George Victor, prince zu Waldeck und Pyrmont (1831-1893), father of Emma, queen of the Netherlands

47 Willem III, king of the Netherlands (1817-1890), in regimental dolman uniform of the horse artillery
Photo: F. de Jongh

48 Sophia, princess von Württemberg, queen of the Netherlands (1818-1877), first wife of king Willem III of the Netherlands

49 Willem III, king of the Netherlands (1817-1890)