

HOLLAND

CRADLE OF MANY FAMOUS PAINTERS

a. AN ARMCHAIR TOUR OF AMSTERDAM.

A visit to this unique city of canals and islands built as a maritime trading centre in the 17th century when Holland began to make huge sums from the spice trade. We see the city develop and how it has developed today. We walk along the three main canals with their tall narrow houses, the Herengracht, the Keizersgracht and the Prinsengracht. We tour the Rijksmuseum with its masterpieces of Dutch still life and landscape and examine major works by Vermeer. We visit Rembrandt's house with its diamond paned windows framed by window shutters, fine period furnishings and collection of his etchings and here the sad story of his life, how this was the dowry of his wife Saskia who died and how he was unable to remarry his mistress, or he would lose the house he loved and of the death of his beloved son, Titus, who appears in so many of Rembrandt's paintings.



AMSTERDAM, THE PALACE OF AMSTERDAM



AMSTERDAM: PRINSINGRACHT, ONE OF THE FAMOUS CANALS



AMSTERDAM, SHOP FRONT AT BRASSE STRAAT



AMSTERDAM FLOWER MARKET AT ST. NIEL

b. THE VAN GOGH MUSEUM AND THE LIFE AND WORK OF VINCENT VAN GOGH

An overview of the development of this great museum and how it came to acquire its collection and a look at the work of Van Gogh in Holland, and in France by the author of a book sold in Britain, America and Holland, *The Impressionists Revealed*.

c. THE FRANS HALS MUSEUM IN HAARLEM.

An armchair tour of a magnificent house museum in Haarlem, one of Holland's best kept secrets filled with the furnishings of a Dutch house of the period and many of Hals' finest works as well as some by his pupil, Judith Leyster, an artist who, due to her gender, did not receive her due during her lifetime.



HAARLEM: THE HOUSE OF FRANS HALS