

## October 2015-Pipe smoking on the Netherlands Inventory Intangible Heritage

**Monday October 12<sup>th</sup>** a document, acknowledging pipe smoking to be a cultural tradition in the Netherlands, was signed by the chairman of the NFP (Dutch federation of Pipe Smokers) Mr. Cornelius Crans MA., the representative of VIE (Dutch Centre for Culture & Intangible Heritage) Mr. Schouten and the Mayor of the city of Dordrecht Mr. Drs. A.A.M. Brok.

The ceremonial signing of the document is the confirmation that pipe smoking as a cultural tradition is being placed on the Inventory of Dutch Intangible Heritage.

The ceremony took place in the Dordrechts museum that used this occasion to show a recently acquired and restored painting by Abraham van Strij (1753-1826):

**Portrait of Hendrik Weymans and his family (note: the two men with their pipes).**



Since 2012 The Netherlands are participating in the UNESCO Convention on the protection of intangible heritage. Due to this, one of their obligations is the development of a national inventory.

The following criteria are used for positioning the tradition on the inventory:

- The tradition meets the definition of intangible cultural heritage
- The tradition is historical and is passed from generation to generation
- The tradition is still being used in current culture
- The tradition is carried by a community
- This community takes care of the transfer to future generations and develops heritage plans to achieve this.

Mr. Crans, also presiding the International Federation for Pipe Smokers (CIPC), representing more than thirty countries, hopes that his initiative will inspire fellow chairmen to follow his example.

The history of pipe smoking goes back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century and many images of pipes and pipe smokers can be found in Dutch paintings in museums all over the world. The tradition of pipe smoking must be preserved for coming generations.



1650 Gerard Dou



1658 Pieter v Anraedt



1887 Vincent v Gogh

