Morphological research of Baruch Spinoza

Spinoza or not Spinoza?

The portrait was bought at an auction in Paris in 2013, described as ‘a portrait of a man, before a statue’ by Barend Graat. The sitter looks very much the same as the sitters of the two acknowledged Spinoza portraits (postume etching and postume painting). To confirm this The Dutch National Forensic Research Bureau and Video Forensic were hired to compile a report on facial comparison. Based on the three paintings, they performed morphological research and comparison based on the facial features listed in Fig. 1. Based on the similarities found in the features both research centers found it to be much more probable that the three sitters are the same person, than that they are not.

B. Graat – portrait of Spinoza - 1666

Fig.1 Facial Landmarks

Fig. 2 Horizontal lining for comparison

Fig.3 Indication of landmarks in the three portraits