

Portrait Beatrice de Luna

H-ArtHist - Donandt -

I am an Associate Fellow at Yale University and I am writing the biography of a sixteenth century woman banker. I have not yet been able to locate a picture of her, or any family members, but a member of your society suggested that perhaps I could place a notice on an electronic bulletin board, or the equivalent. Apparently you have a division of members who concentrate primarily on Renaissance art, and her picture would have been painted, if at all, between the years 1530-1569, especially while she was living in Italy or Antwerp.

Her name was Beatrice de Luna, also called Dona Gracia Nasi. She was born in Portugal and lived in Antwerp, Venice, Ferrara and Constantinople. I would also be interested if there happens to be a painting of her brother-in-law and partner, Diogo Mendes, who was a founder of the Antwerp stock exchange (the Flemish painters of the day had studios over the new stock exchange building, completed in 1531, and exchange members were patrons). There could also be a painting of her husband, Francisco Mendes, who was a wellknown spice trader at that time, working out of Lisbon.

If you can help in any way I would be most grateful. I understand that dozens of

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paintings from
this era exist with names do not mean anything to most people, since they were
not
personalities
known to the world at large. But they could be in an index or data base.
Gratefully yours
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Reference:

Q: Portrait Beatrice de Luna. In: ArtHist.net, Apr 12, 2001 (accessed Mar 25, 2026),
<<https://arthist.net/archive/24440>>.