

# Haarlem

The image shows the interior of a church in Haarlem, characterized by its dark wooden timber frame and a checkered floor. A large, ornate chandelier hangs from the ceiling. In the background, a wooden clock tower is visible. The room is filled with wooden pews and a central table with chairs. Stained glass windows are visible on the right side.

Charles M. Vella



# **HAARLEM**

**PHOTOGRAPHY**  
**Text and Photo Layout**  
**by**  
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*This book is dedicated to  
Gerda and Nico Dijkstra, for your friendship and support over the years.  
And my gratitude to Gerard Johan 'Hans' Vree.  
For all your help and advice and answering many a question.*



Charles M. Vella was born on the island of Malta in 1949 of Maltese, Italian and Scandinavian descent. He was raised in Pimlico, London and is a British National. He currently lives in The Hague, The Netherlands. He is a self-taught photographer and purchased his first camera at the age of twelve, an *Agfa Isolette 6x6*. He is a regular contributor to *Algemeen Nederlands Persbureau – ANP*, a Dutch editorial stock and photo news agency, supplying them with general editorial stock images.

Vella has published work in Japan, Spain, Switzerland, Norway, Italy, Australia, Great Britain, The Netherlands and the U.S. via photo stock agents. He specialises in nature, floral, landscape and architectural photography and when the sky permits – astrophotography.

Having accumulated numerous images, Vella is putting together his own online image library. *Haarlem* is his first book publication and his first full project using digital camera equipment. He is currently on his second book venture: photographing the city of The Hague, The Netherlands.

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## Preface

The first official mention of Haarlem was in the 10th-century. The name comes from ‘*Haarlo-heim*’ or ‘*Haarulahem*’ which means: ***place, on sand and covered with trees, higher than others***. It is also the capital city of the province of North Holland. Haarlem is located 20 kilometres west of Amsterdam; on the banks of the River *Spaarne*. But, unlike the Netherlands’ capital city, Haarlem, with a population of 150,000 is on a much smaller scale. With a pedestrian only city centre, the visitor is led along herringbone paved brick streets and into tranquil *hoffes* (almshouses). For such a small city, Haarlem is steeped in history, and what remains is a testament to its past. It is rich in architecture, museums and churches, of which the most notably is Saint Bavo – *Sint Bavo* or the Great Church on the *Grote Markt*.

In its 1100 year history, Haarlem was occupied, besieged, survived plagues and numerous town fires and remains today, one of Holland’s most picturesque towns. In 1245, Count Willem II of Holland granted Haarlem city rights. During the Dutch Revolt, the 80 year’s war, Haarlem had resisted an invading army of Spaniards. The Flemish people fled from occupied towns and many settled in Haarlem, bringing with them their skills, capital and business contacts. Collectively, they were to make Haarlem a very prosperous city. During the Dutch Golden Age, the Flemish *émigré* was also to play a pivotal role and leave a lasting impression on the city. Most notably the Flemish architect Lieven de Key, who was appointed Haarlem’s master builder in 1593 and is responsible for the most prominent buildings on the *Grote Markt*; principally, the *Vleeshal* – Meat Hall, the facade of *Gravenzaal* – Counts Hall, and the renovation of *Saint Bavo* or the Great Church. The other most notable *émigré* to Haarlem was the renowned painter Frans Hals.







The Great Church or Saint Bavo Church and Fish Hall on the *Grote Markt*.

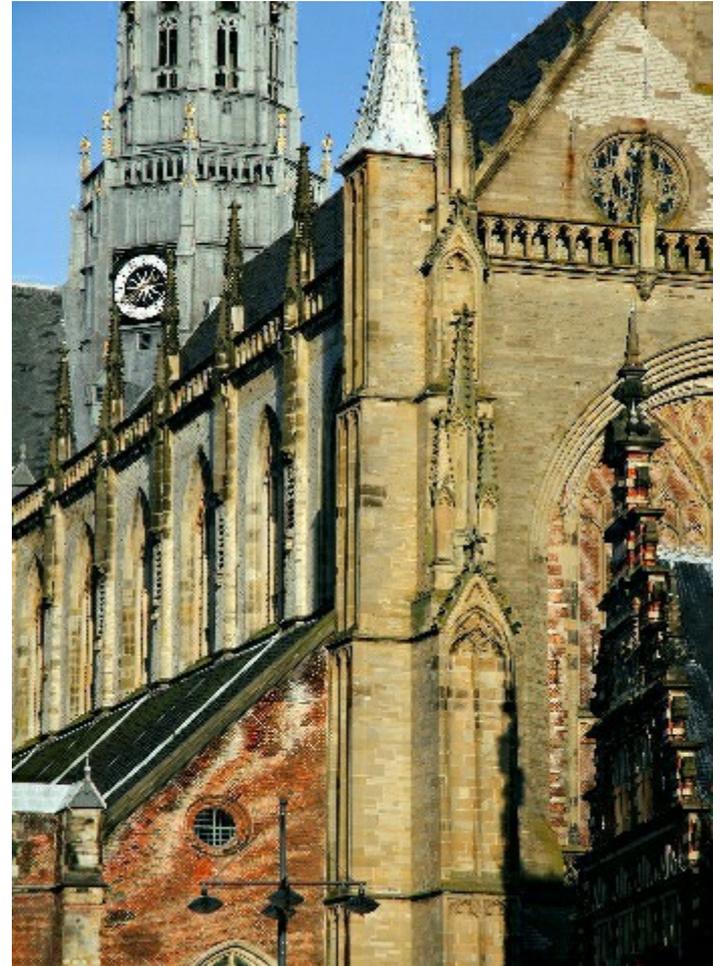
Opposite page and page 10: Town Hall – *Stadhuis, Grote Markt*.

The original 15th-century tower was demolished towards the end of the 18th-century and rebuilt in 1913.





Market Day, *Grote Markt*.



The Great Church or Saint Bavo Church, *Grote Markt*.





Town Hall – *Stadhuis, Grote Markt*. The facade of the building was designed by the architect Lieven de Key and built in 1602-1604.

Opposite page: Gables of the *Grote Markt*.



The Great Church or Saint Bavo Church, *Grote Markt*.

Opposite page: Town Hall inner courtyard and sundial, *Grote Markt*. An adjacent Dominican monastery was incorporated in the 16th-century and some of the cloisters still exist today.



CIRCULUS HORIZONTALIS

CIRCULUS ANTE MERIDIEM





The Counts Hall – The *Gravenzaal* was originally built in the 13th-century as a hunting castle for the Counts of Holland. After two town fires in 1347 and 1351 demolished the original building, the site of the *Gravenzaal* was donated to the Municipality of Haarlem by Count William II of Holland. The castle was rebuilt with the addition of the banquet hall. The paintings on the walls depict the various Counts of Holland and date between 1486 and 1491. The *Gravenzaal* today is a popular wedding venue.

Opposite page: Town Hall – *Stadhuis, Grote Markt*.



Town Hall, Antechamber, *Grote Markt*.

*Stadhuis, Antichambre, Grote Markt.*



Council Hall, *Grote Markt*.

*Raadzaal, Grote Markt.*



*Saint Antonius of Padua – Paterskerk (R.C.).*



The Church of *Saint Antonius of Padua* – *Paterskerk* was built between 1842 and 1844 and designed in a 'Neo-Baroque' style by architect T.F. Suys. It is the second oldest Roman Catholic Church in the city of Haarlem. In the 19th-century The Ministry of Divine Service required that a church should seat 2000 worshippers. This regulation led to the construction of two balconies. This type of church is designated a 'Gallery Church' and makes *Saint Antonius of Padua* an architectural rarity in the Netherlands. It is now a designated listed building, given the title by The Society for the Care, Maintenance and Conservation of Ancient Monuments.