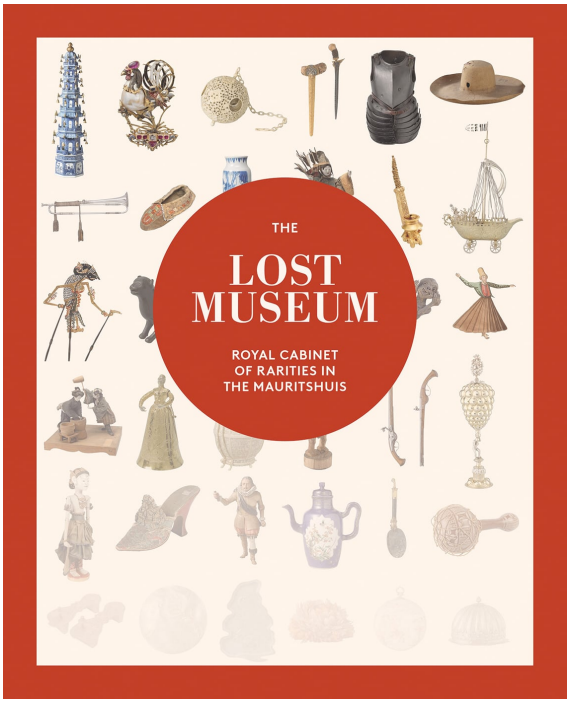
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The Lost Museum

Royal Cabinet of Rarities in the Mauritshuis

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- Over 200 years ago, the Mauritshuis hosted two museums. The Royal Cabinet of Rarities closed in 1875, and its collection was dispersed
- An exhibition runs at the Hague from 12 September 2024 - 5 January 2025 and this publication accompanies it, and explores its history

Over 200 years ago, the Mauritshuis hosted not one, but two museums. On the upper floor was the Royal Cabinet of Paintings, while on the ground floor, thousands of objects of all kinds were on display in the Royal Cabinet of Rarities. This rarities cabinet closed in 1875 and the objects were distributed to various Dutch institutions. The temporary exhibition *The Vanished Museum* about this Royal Cabinet of Rarities is accompanied by a publication with essays by 30 experts, including curators of the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam and the Wereldmuseum in Leiden. In relatively short texts, the reader is taken through the rich and often complex history of the institution. The diverse topics and perspectives suit the motley nature of the collection. From a text about an unusual ivory Chinese puzzle ball, to a reflection on the formation of cultural stereotypes; from a kayak on the ceiling, to a hat that turns out not to belong to Willem van Oranje after all.

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