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## Willem van Herp, Joachim and Anna, ca. 1651-53

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Willem van Herp  
Flemish (ca.1614-1677)  
*Joachim and Anna*, ca. 1651-53

Oil on copper  
33 ½ x 40 ½ in.

Museum Purchase, The David C. Scott Foundation Fund, 2003.6



What I like about this painting is its profound sense of family. I don't know the artist's own experiences, but he shows so much compassion and love, not only for the three main characters but also among them. Joachim is clearly grateful to God for his lovely daughter, and Anna, barren all these years, looks adoringly at the young Mary. Mary is a happy child, in the comfort of her parents. It's the Holy Family, but in the prior generation.

The brilliant colors give joy to the scene. Perhaps those angels up above are a bit superfluous, but they add to the merriment of the occasion. If Joachim and Anna only knew the life their daughter would lead.

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