

# The Frick Collection: Detail Report

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## King Philip IV of Spain

Diego Rodríguez de Silva y Velázquez (Spanish, 1599–1660)

**Date** 1644

**Medium** Oil on canvas

**Dimensions** 51 1/8 × 39 1/8 in. (129.9 × 99.4 cm)

**Credit Line** Henry Clay Frick Bequest

**Accession Number** 1911.1.123

Currently On View

First Floor, Room 13, West Gallery

**Commentary** Philip IV (1605–65), who succeeded to the throne in 1621, was a weak ruler but a lavish patron of the arts and letters. He promoted the Spanish theater, built the Palacio del Buen-Retiro, enlarged the royal collections, and was Velázquez' most ardent supporter. In 1644 Velázquez accompanied the King on a campaign to Catalonia, where the Spanish army led a successful siege of Lérida against the French. In the town of Fraga, the King's headquarters, in a dilapidated, makeshift studio, Philip posed for this portrait dressed in the silver-and-rose costume he wore during the campaign. Although Velázquez painted numerous portraits of Philip IV, this is the only one dating from the 1640s. Source: *Art in The Frick Collection: Paintings, Sculpture, Decorative Arts*, New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1996.

**Collection History** Royal family of Spain. Ducal family of Parma, at Parma (1748); at Wartegg Castle, Switzerland; at Schwarzenau am Steinfelde, Austria (1864); at Liechtenegg Castle, Austria (after 1907); and at Vienna. Sold by Prince Elias of Bourbon-Parma to Agnew in 1910. Sold by Knoedler (with Scott and Fowles) to Henry C. Frick, 1911. Source: *Paintings in The Frick Collection: French, Italian and Spanish. Volume II*. New York: The Frick Collection, 1968.