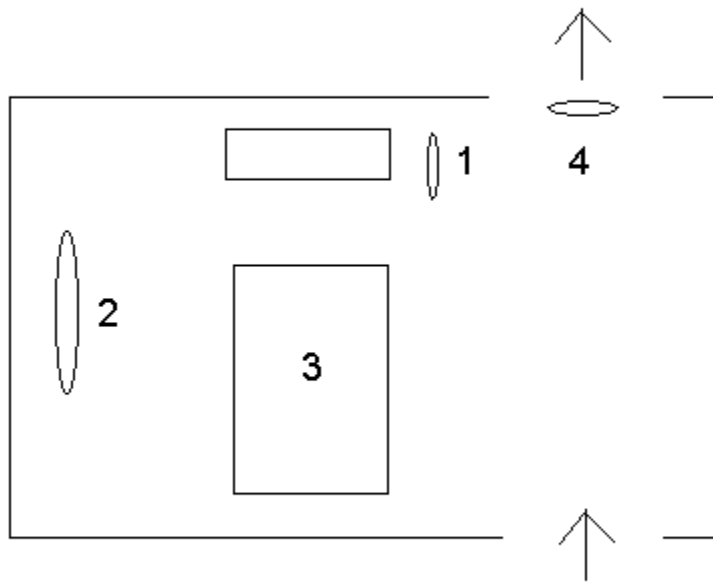


TWO GILDA's ANTEROOM (02 E)



- (1) You move into the antechamber of the two Gildas, so named because you find here the portrait of Gilda of Laubespin (1919-1987) and her brother John (1922-2008), the deceased President of the Association of the Freyr Estate, and...
- (2) ... the portrait of their great grandmother, Gilda of Beaufort-Spontin (1813-1880), painted by Antoine Wiertz. The relationship between these people is described in the frame on the table. Antoine Wiertz (Dinant 1806 - Brussels 1865) was a painter and sculptor, author of various works: large murals in the style of Rubens, paintings critical of society, erotic scenes, portraits and even a study of the *Triumph of the Light*, a statue 45 meters high that was intended to be placed on the cliffs at Dinant, and in fact inspired Bartholdi for his *Statue of the Liberty* in New York.
- (3) The children's coach was made in Brussels, probably by the coachbuilder Simon, for the children of the first Duke of Beaufort. It is a small-scale replica of their parents' coach to the smallest detail. A folding footboard disappears when one closes the door. There are sliding windows in the door to give fresh air. A suspension system provides comfort for young passengers. The big brother played the role of coachman and drove ponies harnessed to the coach, while two younger children played the lackeys standing at the back. This exceptional toy won first prize at the World Exhibition in Paris (1889).

- (4) Above the door leading to the dining room, a small painting depicting another means of transport, a sled, used by Countess von Daun, the wife of the Field Marshall. To your left two pictures of the visit (1989) of the Japanese Crown Prince in the gardens accompanied by Baron Francis Bonaert and his daughter-in-law, Mary of Yturbe. The orange trees particularly impressed the Prince, since the way they are maintained is technically similar to that used for bonsais.