

PM Visit to the Het Hannema House Museum Harlingen 26th September 2001

The curator, Mr H. ter Avest introduced us to the history of the development of the Museum in an 18th century merchant's house and emphasised that the collection of furniture, tiles, paintings and other maritime objects reflected the history of the town from the 15th to the 19th century. A late 18th century Dutch commode or tea 'buffet' decorated with marquetry panels was of particular interest¹⁰. The hinged top could be opened to allow a number of shallow shelves to fall down into place alongside a cistern. Some versions of this type of commode are provided with one or two side flaps which allow extra serving space and access to a central basin for the washing of glasses in the drawing room.

Also in this room was a late 18th century neoclassical press (fig 14) the lower doors with stays to allow for slides to run out on battens fixed inside the doors and, typically, in the upper section two fixed shelves and wooden pins either side securing the cornice.

In the entrance hall was an unusual wall clock with carved oak columns which came from Harlingen church and is illustrated in an interior drawing of the church in 1857, while in a backroom we admired a German padouk wood triple harlequin table, which had come from the Hannema family in about 1965. Its padouk-lined drawers, shell carved knees and claw and ball feet all pointed to the top quality of Abraham Roentgen's workshop.

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