

PM Visit to Marken Island, 28th September 2001

The final part of our visit arrived, with an excursion by boat on Friday afternoon to the island of Marken. We were greeted at the landing stage by a charming lady, in full Marken costume (fig 29), who hastily explained that the ladies at the local museum still expected us!

Anticipating the needs of overseas tourists, an English language video recalled the history of the island over the last two centuries. When the Zuiderzee was still open water to the North Sea it flooded regularly at high tide when the N.W. gales were blowing. During the winter months, ice-breakers were anchored off shore to remove the ice shoals threatening the sea walls and the houses. Whereas in the old days, the livelihood of the inhabitants was the fishing industry

(they could take their luggers to the North Sea), since the closure of the Zuiderzee in 1937, the fishing industry had ceased. The island economy is now entirely devoted to the tourist industry.

The small Marken Museum is housed in six semi-detached 'Rookhuisjes' - small dwellings having a hole in the roof to let the smoke of the fire escape, hence the name 'smokehouse'. Particularly noticeable in the museum collection were the various painted kasts supporting arrays of 19th century copper lustre ware and Staffordshire plates.

Marken is charming during the month of September; few visitors, no cars, narrow lanes, unexpected vistas and the sun was shining. It was all very worthwhile. The remark 'Having seen the museum collections during the week, we now have seen the context' sums it up.

Jackie Irik

References

- 1 P.H. Rem, 'Restoration of the Sate Bed acquired by Het Loo Palace and intended for the bedchamber of the King Stadtholder William III', *Textile History*, 31 (2), 2000, p150-162.
- 2 Early 18th century trunks bearing similarities to this wheeled version have been recorded (inclusive of iron or brass decorative mountings) in the Seesen am Harz district of Germany. Ernst Schlee, 'German Folk Art', Kodansha International Ltd., 1980, fig. 151 and p109 and in *Scandinavia*, plate 1, Vol. 1 Nordiska Museets, Mobler Fran Svenska Herremanshem by S. Wallin, 1931.
- 3 Sacheverell Sitwell, 'The Netherlands', Batsford, 1950, plate 88, which is derived from a circa 1800 print, illustrates a typical painted rush seated Assendelft chair.
- 4 Ernst Schlee op cit, fig. 131.
- 5 Penny Rumble, 'Some East Anglian Chests', *Regional Furniture*, Volume V 1991, fig. 151 and p109.
- 6 Similar versions, in which the oval sides were reinforced with two square rods in order to support a board-type lid and carrying handle, were made on a large scale in Norway. Ernst Schlee, op cit, p133.
- 7 Apparently there was also a tradition in Germany of making painted school boxes, with a sliding lid and a hole to hang them on the school room wall. Gertrud Benker, 'Altes bäuerliches Holzgerat', Munich 1976, plates 178, 182, 183. Similar items, known in Belgium as *Cassette d'écolier*, are displayed in the Musée de la Vie Wallone at Liège. Lucile Oliver, 'Mobilier des Provinces Belges et Des Flandres Français', CH. Massin.
- 8 C. Willemijn Fock, 'Master pieces and Marks of the Leiden Furniture Guilds in the 18th Century', *F.H.S. Journal* 1985, p66.
- 9 'Hinderlooper schildersjongen', c.1880, by Christoffel Bisschop. Illustration, courtesy of the Friesian Museum, Leeuwarden.
- 10 Th. H. Lunsingh Scheurleer, 'The Low Countries' in *World Furniture* edited by Helena Hayward, 1965, p168-9.
- 11 J. Schipper, 'Vruchtentrossen in Grisaille, Beschilderde kasten uit Nieuw Nederland en Nederland', *Antiek*, Oct 1995, Nos. 3, p98-110.
- 12 Terwen de Loos. J. 'Het Nederlandse Koloniale Meuble' *Franeker*, 1985, p55-61.
- 13 Ellen Redlefson 'Katalog der Möbelsammlong', *Stadtüsches Museum, Flemsburg* 1977, p55.
- 14 Amsterdam Notorial Archive 5075 Nos. 751 p63, 8th August 1632.
- 15 18th century leather and iron bound cylindrical mariners trucks are also to be found in Sweden. S. Warrin op cit. p41.

From the launch on the way to Marken by William Jeffries

